



The Baptism of Jesus



Jason and Sonya Staben



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John the Baptist lived in the desert of Judea. He was prophesied long ago by Isaiah who said, “Someone is shouting in the desert, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.’”

John only ate locusts and wild honey and wore clothes made of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist.

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Many people came to hear John from Jerusalem and all Judea. John the Baptist declared, "Turn back to God and be baptised. Do this and your sins will be forgiven."

The people heard and obeyed and John baptised them in the Jordan River.

The crowds began to ask, "What then shall we do?"



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John said, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who does not have one. Likewise if you have food, share it with others who lack."

Tax collectors came to John and asked, "Teacher, what must we do?" John told them, "Do not make people pay more than they owe."





Soldiers came to John and asked, "What must we do?" John told them, "Do not force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be happy with your pay."

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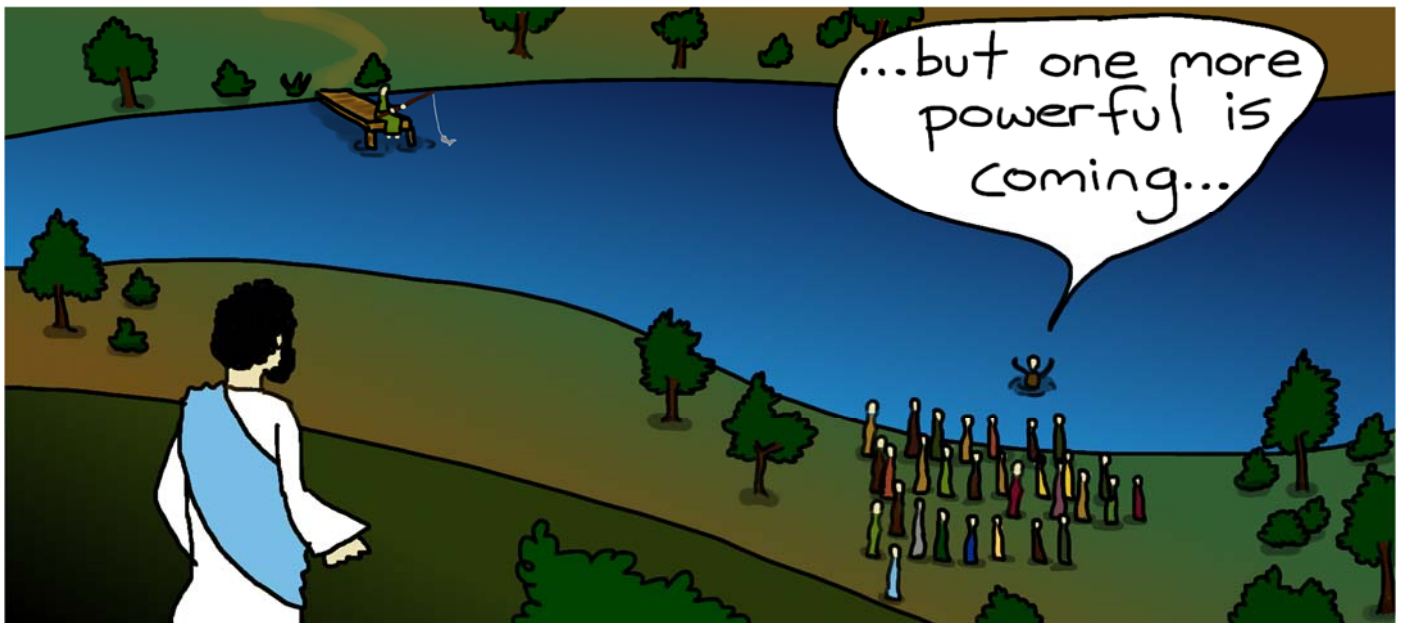


Now the crowds became very excited and wondered if John might be the Messiah.

Some Pharisees came and asked, "If you are not the Messiah, then why are you baptising people?"



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John replied, "I baptise with water those who turn from their sin to God. But someone greater than I am is coming. I am not even worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."



Then Jesus came from Galilee and went to the Jordan River to be baptised by John. At first John protested saying, "It is I that needs to be baptised by you, why are you coming to me?" Jesus replied, "It is what should be done, for we must carry out all God requires."

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With this John the Baptist agreed and baptised Jesus. As soon as he came out of the water, the heavens opened and he saw the spirit of God come down on him like a dove and settling on him.

A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, who I am pleased with."



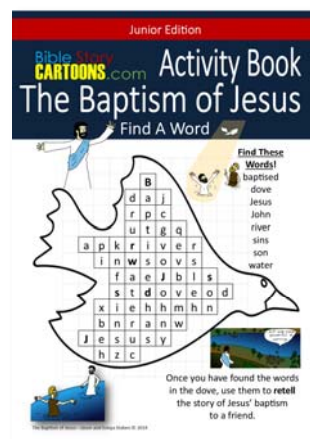
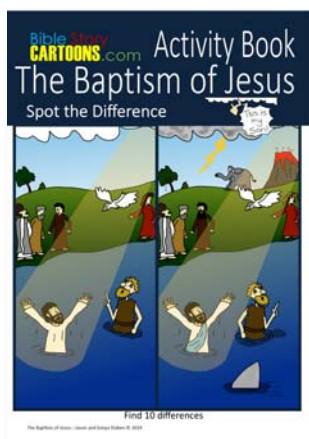
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After this Jesus began his ministry, preaching and teaching the people about the love of God wherever he went.

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