



We are in week four of a series called “Jesus According to Matthew.” In this series, we are taking a long, slow walk through the book of Matthew. As we unpack what Matthew wrote about the life of Jesus, we will explore what Jesus would say about our world, our culture, and each of our lives. If you weren’t able to hear the sermon this weekend, check it out at [firstdecatour.org/jesusaccordingtomatthew](http://firstdecatour.org/jesusaccordingtomatthew)

## WEEK 4: BAPTISM

This weekend, Pastor Wayne discussed the Baptism of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 3:13-17. This passage is a powerful example of Jesus humbling himself so that a greater good could be fulfilled. John knew who Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus did not need his baptism. However, Jesus submitted to John’s baptism to paint a picture of his eventual submission of becoming the sinless one who took the place of sinners. This act also fulfilled John’s mission, that he would introduce the Messiah to the world.



### OPENING CONVERSATION

As we begin this week, take a moment to answer these questions:

- ▶ What is the most exciting thing you have ever announced? What did it feel like as you waited to share the news? What did it feel like to share the news?
- ▶ How would you have felt if you were John the Baptist waiting to announce Jesus to the world?



### BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Read **MATTHEW 3:13-17**

When Jesus came out of the water, three incredible things happened. Heaven opened up, the Spirit of God came down like a dove on Jesus, and then God spoke and affirmed whom Jesus was. This is one of the few times in Scripture we see the three members of the Trinity present at the same time. This is a powerful image at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry of the Father and Spirit commissioning Jesus. The Father anointed the Son through the Spirit for the work laid before him.

- ▶ Why would John have hesitated to baptize Jesus? What emotions would he have experienced? Have you ever felt like John when it comes to Jesus? Why or why not?
- ▶ How would it have felt to witness the baptism of Jesus? If you were there, what questions would you have had?
- ▶ This weekend, Pastor Wayne talked about how this passage reveals Jesus' identity as the Son of God, the Messiah, and the Anointed One. How is Jesus revealed as each of these in this passage? What do each of these mean for you?



## FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ In our culture, many people believe in God and may even believe that Jesus was a good man. Reflecting on this passage and the idea that so many people, including Jesus, claimed the Jesus was the Son of God, how would you respond to this cultural idea?
- ▶ As Pastor Wayne began his sermon this week, he showed us some pictures of Grüner See, a lake in Styria, Austria. During the summer season, this lake is deep enough to dive in, but in the winter, the lake recedes and reveals a beautiful park that local hikers enjoy. In the summer, beneath the surface of the water, the pathways, park benches, and even a bridge these hikers use can be seen. Similarly as Pastor Wayne asked this weekend, what lies below the surface of who Jesus is as the Son of God? What does it really mean to believe Jesus is the Son of God?
- ▶ Read **Revelation 19:11-16**. How does this passage influence your understanding of Jesus as the Son of God?



## PRAYER

As you close your time, take time to pray.

- ▶ Pray for this series, that the words and life of Jesus would transform us. Pray that God would use this series to make each of us, and our congregation, more like his Son.
- ▶ Ask God to help you truly understand who Jesus is and what that means for your life.
- ▶ If you are doing this study as a small group, pray for each other to respond to who Jesus is.