

**Matthew 3:13–17; John 1:29–34**

**Acts 2:41**

**BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”  
Acts 2:41

Are you a sport's fan? If you're not, there's a good chance you know someone who is. Consider fans' habit of wearing their favorite team's jerseys or caps. Why do they do this? Simple. To be identified with the respective team.

Read Matthew 3:13–17 and John 1:29–34. This is the wonderful account of Jesus' baptism. Jesus' baptism served several purposes: it “fulfill[ed] all righteousness,” that is, it completed what God wanted done; it identified Jesus with John, the forerunner of the Messiah; it identified Jesus with humanity; it symbolized what Jesus came to earth to do—die, be buried, and be raised back to life; and it served as the beginning point of Jesus' public ministry.

As Christians, there are a few main reasons why we are baptized. First, we show ourselves as obedient to Jesus' example. Second, we engage in a symbolic ritual pointing to the death of our old life and the resurrection of our new life in Christ. Finally, similar to people who wear their teams' colors, baptism identifies us with Jesus Christ. It is a public statement to the role of Lordship that Jesus has in our lives.

If your teenagers have been baptized, help them to see how this simple yet poignant experience identifies them with Christ. Help them understand that they are forever on Jesus' team. Challenge them to embrace the spiritual transformation that occurs when they give their life over to Jesus.

## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

### Connect . . .

Everyone think of one or two ways that outsiders—those not in your family—identify you as a member of your family. *(If you have time, send everyone through the house to bring back one object that identifies them as a member of your family.)*  
Discuss: Aside from our last name, or forms of identification, are there things we do that show the outside world that we belong to this family?

### Explore . . .

Read aloud Matthew 3:13–17 and John 1:29–34. Read: Jesus' baptism was important. It symbolized what He came to earth to do: to die, be buried, and be raised back to life; it confirmed God's intent for Jesus' ministry; it also identified Jesus with humankind.

### Transform . . .

Read: When we are baptized it tells the world that Jesus is Lord of our lives—that He has transformed us. The old, sinful part of us is gone . . . it has been replaced by Jesus in us.

Discuss: How are our lives different if we have identified ourselves with Jesus? Are there things we do as a family that tells the world we are different because we serve Jesus?

*Pray together that God will help your family live a life that identifies you with Jesus.*