

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 34

**Lesson Title:** God Announces the King

**Take Home Point:** God tells us in baptism, "I am your God, and you are my child whom I love."

### Warm-Up:

Think of a time that you received a birth announcement in the mail. When the new parents sent it out, did they proclaim every single detail of the child's personality and what their plans and expectations were for their new baby? Not usually! The proud parents are happy just to let everyone know that a new life has begun. The announcement typically includes a few bits of information such as the baby's name, the parents' name, date of birth, and length and weight. If you stay in touch with the family as their child grows and develops, more information is communicated about both the child and the parents' loving relationship. It's fun to watch the relationships develop and be part of it all.

**Read:** Matthew 3

### Observation (What happened?):

What were people doing as they were being baptized by John?

After what action did God speak from heaven?

### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did John not believe it was necessary for him to baptize Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized and why his Father wanted him to be baptized?

### Insight:

In Matthew 3, God responds to the baptism of Jesus like a proud parent—"this is MY SON; I am so pleased with HIM!" God wanted everyone to know that Jesus was loved and very special to him. As time passed, Jesus would reveal more about himself and the work his Father had given him. Not only that, but two more times during the course of his son's life God audibly identified Jesus as special to him and worthy of attention. Read Matthew 17:1-8 and John 12:23-30 to discover what God said later as Jesus ministered to people.

### Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know God loves you as his child? (Read John 3:16; John 17:23; Romans 5:6-8; and Romans 8:35-39 to get an idea of his great love.)

Take some time to pray for the children in your group to comprehend God's love and follow Jesus in baptism.