

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 35

Lesson Title: Get Connected to God

Take Home Point: In baptism, we are connected to Jesus.

Warm-Up:

I am in the process of building a new house. I have taken great care in selecting my general contractor and all the subcontractors responsible for specific portions of the building. For example, I made sure I hired the best plumber available and directed him to spare no expense installing the highest quality pipes and fixtures. I also told him to not connect to any external water supply, since I believe that simply having the best in my house should be good enough to ensure that water runs through my plumbing. He attempted to explain that unless my pipes were connected to the source I could not expect to receive any water, but I assured him I was confident in the quality and built-in workmanship of my house.

Read: Luke 3:1-22

Observation (What happened?):

What one word identifies John the Baptizer's primary message?

What was God the Father's response to Jesus being baptized?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to repent? What kind of questions did people ask to help them understand?

Why do you think Jesus insisted on being baptized?

Insight:

This was not the only time the Father spoke from heaven to say he was pleased with his Son. In Matthew 17:1-8, Jesus took James, Peter, and John to the top of a mountain where his glory was revealed to them. As Jesus shone like the sun, a voice from heaven declared, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" It is interesting that these two announcements occurred at the beginning and the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus; shortly after the glorious transfiguration before the three disciples, he presses on to Jerusalem and his crucifixion. Jesus pleased his Father by his life of complete connection and obedience. How do we please God? By a life of complete connection and obedience to our Heavenly Father. If that is how we live, we can look forward to him saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" as Jesus described in a parable in Matthew 25:14-46. What more could we want to receive than the commendation of God because of our relationship with him? Not because we live perfectly, but because we turn from our self-centered life of sin and depend on him for everything.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does it mean to you to repent? From what specific attitude, thought, or activity is God calling you to turn away?

How do you sustain your connection to God on a daily basis?

Meet the Amazing Jesus..., Lesson 35