

The Moment Of Truth

Key Word: Repentance

Key Verse: I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. *Mark 1:8*

I'd never met my cousin John, but I'd heard plenty about him from my mother. She was very fond of his parents Elizabeth and Zechariah, but we lived far apart. John was an only child. His parents were quite old when he was born, so he was the center of their lives. Then he got religious and disappeared into the desert for years. When he came out of the desert, full of zeal for God, we thought he must have been training for his new life. I heard about his exciting, new preaching and his strange, symbolic baptism — pushing people right under the surface of the Jordan to symbolize washing away their sins — and I felt an unusual warmth toward him. I knew I had to get to see him.

My mother was angry. She always overprotected me, but I was a grown man now, and she knew she could not keep me away from John. The nearer I got, the crowds grew. They loved him. He was such a fiery preacher. He reminded me of what the old prophets were like. He roared at the crowds, almost threatening them to turn back to God. They went down to be dunked under the water and emerge into a new, better life.

“Are you the Messiah?” someone shouted, but John shook his head. “Not me,” he declared. “There’s someone coming after me whose sandals I’m unworthy to even touch — the Messiah.” It felt like he was looking straight at me when he said it! I couldn’t hold back. An outside force was urging me to receive John’s baptism. Almost before I knew it I found myself in the Jordan, staring into John’s eyes. He placed one hand on my head and one on my shoulder and said, “I baptize you in the name of God!” Then, before I had time to take breath, I was under the water. It felt like there was a huge light from heaven pouring into me. When I looked up, I could see a dove in the sky just above me, and a loud voice thundering, “You are my beloved son. I’m well pleased with you.”

Thank God for John and his fearless preaching and his baptism! What a moment of truth that was for me! Without that, perhaps I wouldn’t be here now.

Questions

Who do you think is telling this story? Why?

What happened after John baptized Jesus?

Fill In The Missing Spaces

DOVE WAIST HEAVENS
CLOTHED SPIRIT SANDALS
EXAMPLE DESCEND GOING
AFTER WORTHY RIVER
STOOP CAMEL PEOPLE
APPEAR JORDAN APART
BAPTIZER UNITE PLEASED
COMING BELT QUICK
JESUS

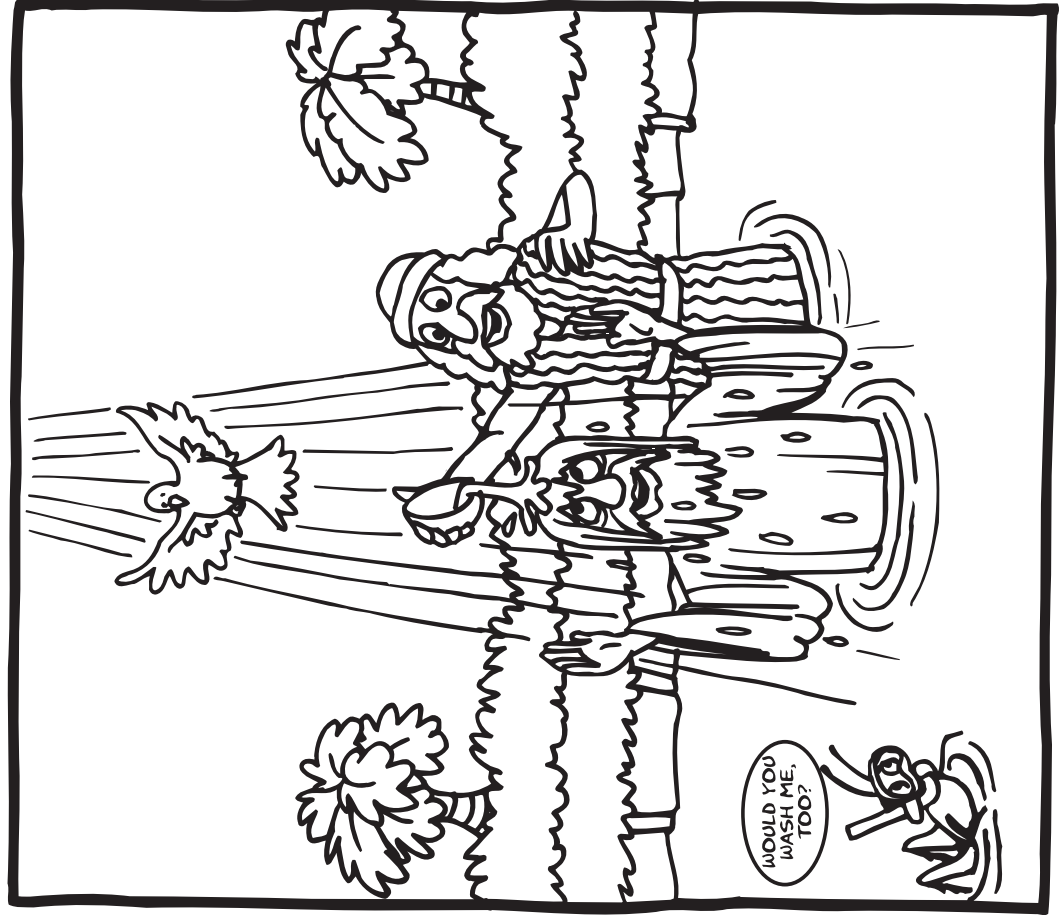
Choose The Right Word

canoe's hair	JORDAN	PLEASED
water	CLOTHED	WATER
Holy Spirit	BAPTIZED	SANDALS
dove	HEAVENS	HONEY
heaven	DOVE	LOCUSTS
	VOICE	JESUS

Answers

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Mark 1:4-11



Word Scramble

Below are 12 words from today's Gospel story, but the letters are all scrambled. Unscramble each word and write it on the blank to the right.

- DORAJN _____
- DETOHLC _____
- ZDATEPIB _____
- NVSAEHE _____
- EVDO _____
- COVIE _____
- SDEELPA _____
- TREAW _____
- SSAANDL _____
- NYOHE _____
- LSCSUOT _____
- SESUJ _____

Choose The Right Word

The sentences below are from today's Gospel story, but they are not complete. Choose the right word, or words, from the three choices and finish the sentence.

John was clothed with _____ (vs. 1:6)

- King's robe
- camel's hair
- sheep's wool

John said that he baptized with _____ (vs. 1:8)

- zeal
- prayer
- water

John said that Jesus would baptize with the _____ (vs. 1:8)

- heaven's fire
- Holy Spirit
- King's power

The Spirit descended like a _____ (vs. 1:10)

- light
- voice
- dove

Then a voice came from _____ (vs. 1:10)

- dove
- heaven
- Jesus

Fill In The Missing Space

Place one letter of the alphabet in the blank space to make a word from today's Gospel story. Words are at least 5 letters long. Use each alphabet letter only once. We have included an alphabet chart to mark off the letters as you use them. Two have already been done for you.

L N M D D O V E K N G
 E C L O T H E D E K P
 J W U W E A M P L E
 V W B D A T E R D N
 S G R E S O O P W T
 F G H I J P P E A R
 J W B A S I N G D Z
 B A P T I E R R A P
 O H Y C O I N G I O
 K I L X O A I S T N
 T X S P I I T E R O
 A K D E S E N D L Q
 W O R T H W U W T J
 T S C A M L S O R O
 J O R D A T S Q P J
 E O R Y O N T I E P
 P G Q R S E L T B E
 K I L M N E S U S X
 A K H E A E N S P F
 U T S A N A L S G P
 S G O I N I N U W T
 P E T A R V E R P F
 X P E O P E K H C D
 A K H X A A R T E Q
 V P L E A E D H M N
 U R P J I U I C K P

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ