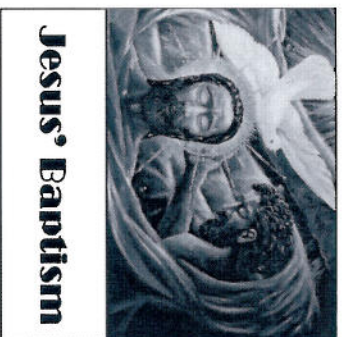


# God's Story Our Story

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January 8, 2017



**Devotion:** Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Hear us, O Lord,

Your axe lies at the foot of the trees. May we bear good fruit and good news to all the people, in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, Amen.

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* Luke 3:21-22

**Study:** Study the reading and consider the background.

John the Baptist has undeniable charisma. But be careful – if you ask him a question, you might not like the answer. John's proclamation is the radical inbreaking of God's kingdom on earth, and one that calls for a radical response.

**Consider:** Consider this theme for the week's text.

There is no quick fix for this world; God's kingdom is made well slowly, one right move at a time.

**Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Jesus' Baptism (Baptism of Our Lord)*, Luke 3:1-22

Monday: *Genealogy of Jesus*, Luke 3:23-38

Tuesday: *Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness*, Luke 4:1-13

Wednesday: *Comfort, O Comfort My People*, Isaiah 40:1-11

Thursday: *God Will Restore Jerusalem*, Isaiah 52:1-12

Friday: *Elijah's Flight*, 1 Kings 19:1-9a

Saturday: *Hear, O Israel*, Deuteronomy 6:4-15

**What promises from Israel's history does Jesus come to fulfill?**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**How has your lifestyle contributed to the institutionalization of oppression?**

**Does your baptism inform your actions and behaviors? If so, then how? If not, why not?**

**DO:** By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Take the survey at <http://slaveryfootprint.org> to discover how many slaves your lifestyle employs. Make one change this week to lower your slavery footprint.**

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

You are God's child, God's beloved. With you God is well pleased. Amen.