



So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove.

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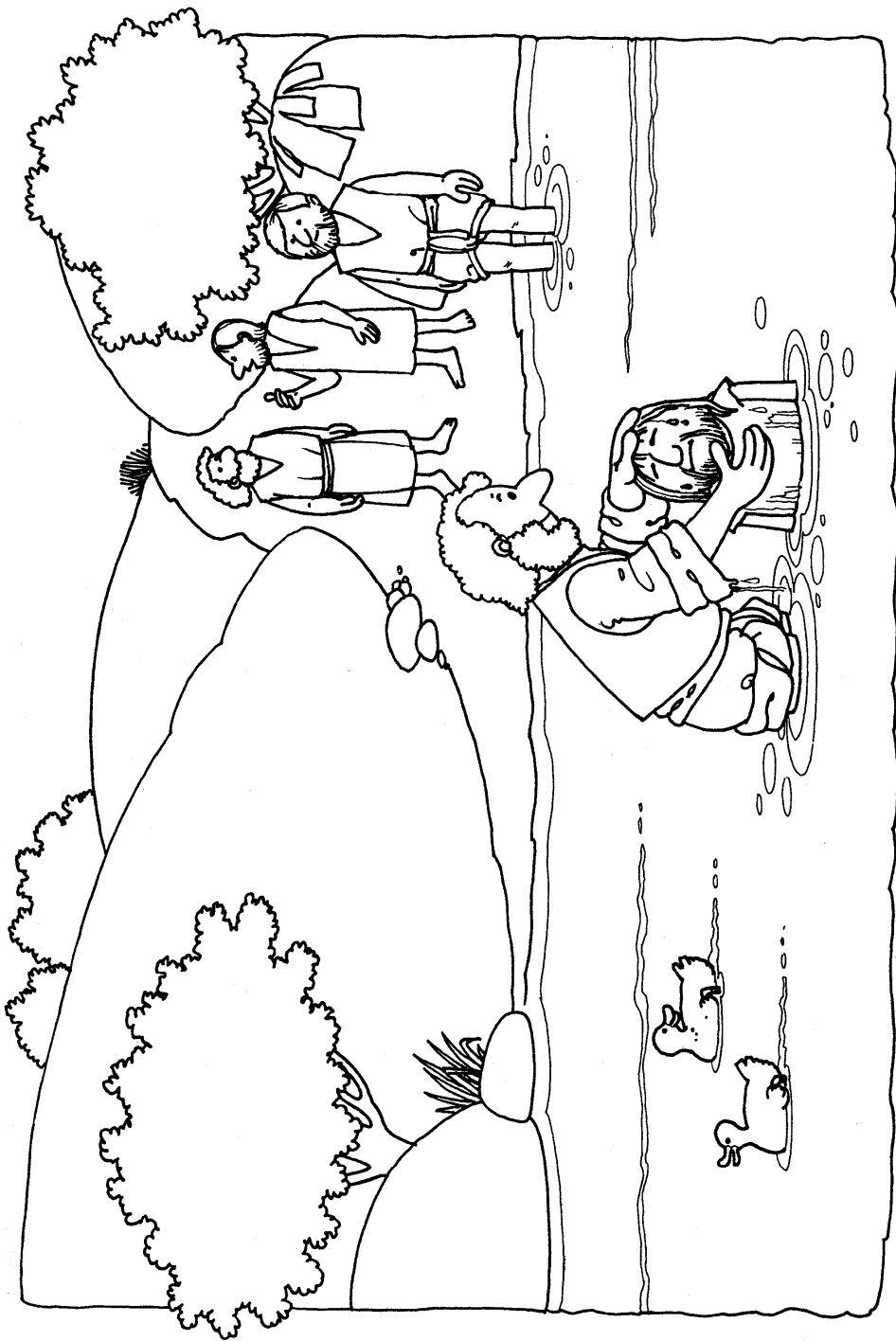
The Baptism of the Lord 8 January, 2023

Matthew 3:17

And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Dear Lord, help us to grow in our Christian faith so that we may be children of whom you can be proud.

Amen



WordSearch: *Matthew 3:13-17 (CEV)*



GALILEE	JORDAN	JOHN	OBJECTING
OUGHT	WHY	ANSWERED	SHOULD
BECAUSE	GOD	AGREED	BAPTIZED
SOON	WATER	SKY	SPIRIT
DOVE	HEAVEN	SON	PLEASED

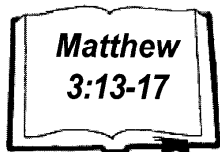
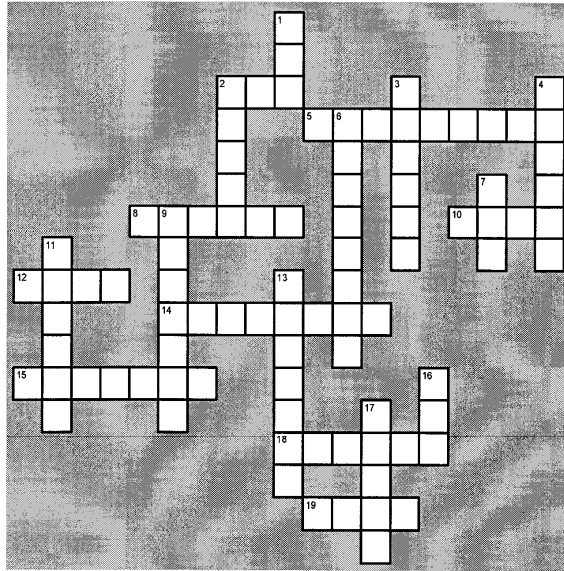


Crossword: Matthew 3:13-17 (CEV)

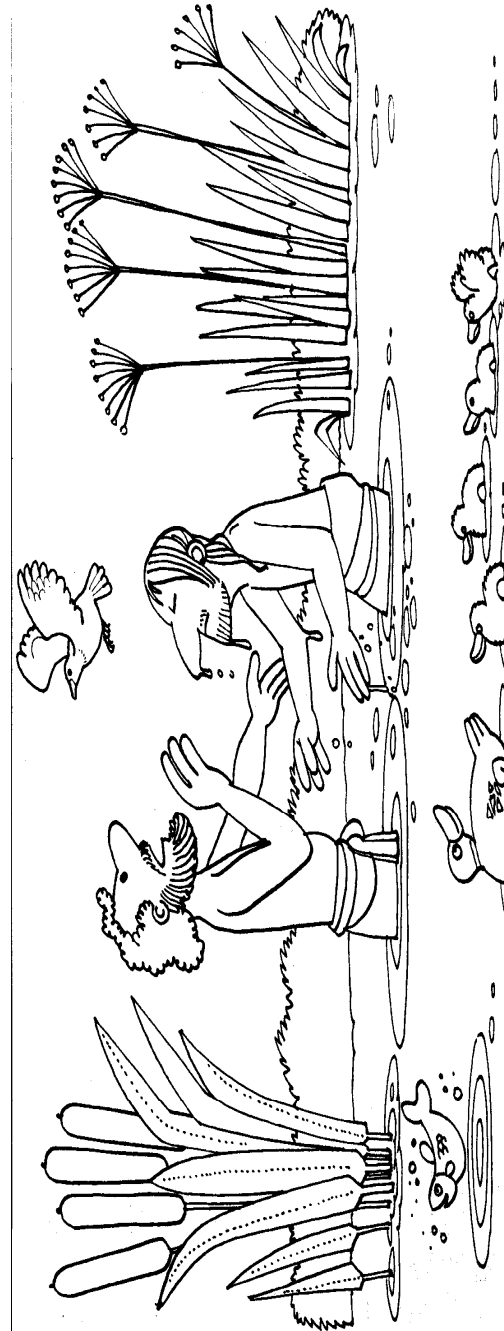
Listen CAREFULLY to the Reading and fill in the blank spaces.

Afterwards you will be able to complete the crossword puzzle below.

- 15 across) Jesus left _____
and _____
- 11 down) went to the _____
River
- 19 across) to be baptized by _____.
- 5 across) But John kept _____ and said,
17 down) I _____ to be baptized by you.
- 2 across) _____ have you come to me?"
- 14 across) Jesus _____, "For now _____"
- 18 across) this is how it _____ be, _____
- 13 down) _____ we must do all _____
- 16 down) that _____ wants us to do."
- 4 down) Then John _____.
- 6 down) So Jesus was _____.
- 12 across) And as _____ as he _____,
- 2 down) came out of the _____,
- 1 down) the _____ opened, and _____
- 8 across) he saw the _____ of God _____
- 10 across) coming down on him like a _____.
- 3 down) Then a voice from _____ said,
- 7 down) This is my own dear _____,
- 9 down) and I am _____ with him."



Puzzle by Dorothy A. DeBisschop, dottie@our-oxford.info
Prepared for FREE Distribution through www.homiliesbyemail.com



He must become
more important
while I become
less important



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

IF YOU WERE JEWISH, WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING THE MESSIAH TO COME?

Yes. And you would pray for it every day.

SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN GREAT TO BE LIVING WHEN HE ACTUALLY CAME? For some, yes. But others didn't recognise him.

WHY NOT?

We tend to see what we're expecting, and Jesus wasn't the kind of warrior king they thought Messiah would be.

BUT JESUS FITS ISAIAH'S IDEA VERY CLOSELY.

Yes. But there is spiritual blindness as well as physical blindness.

Set up an optician (white-coated) with examination chair facing the audience. Optician has a torch, and mimes giving the eye examination. The audience see the words up behind the client.

Optician Ah, good afternoon, madam. If you'd like to sit down here . . .

Client Oh, thanks. I hope this won't take too long. I'm late already.

Optician Just read me the letters on the board, madam.

Client J, E, S, U, S / I, S / T, H, E / O, N, E / W, E / A, R, E / W, A, I, T, I, N, G / F, O, R.

Optician Excellent sight, madam! Every letter clear to the very small print at the bottom.

Client Can I go now, then?

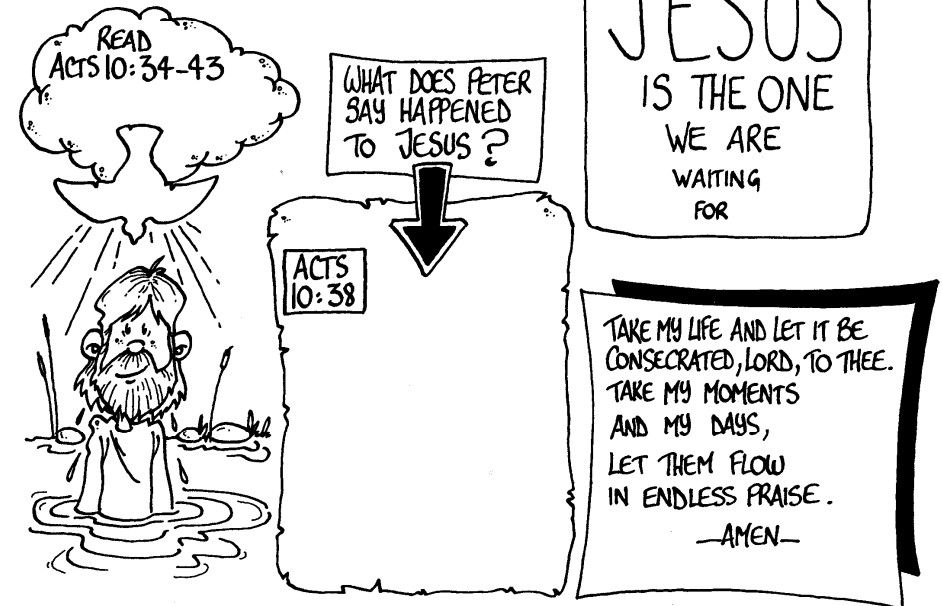
Optician What about the message, though? Can you read the message?

Client Message - what message?

Optician The one staring you in the eye, madam. You can see it clearly enough.

Client No, I can't see any message. Does that mean I need glasses?

Optician (writing on her record card) Physical sight: perfect. Spiritual sight: nil.



JESUS IS THE ONE WE ARE WAITING FOR

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE CONSECRATED, LORD, TO THEE. TAKE MY MOMENTS AND MY DAYS, LET THEM FLOW IN ENDLESS PRAISE. -AMEN-