

## THE WORD ALIVE | WEEK 4 HANDOUT

### “This Is My Beloved Son”

#### Matthew 3:10–17

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#### 1. Opening Reflection

Jesus carried the weight of saving the world, yet He never lived anxious, rushed, or outside His assignment.

**Question:**

Where do I feel tempted to carry more than God has assigned to me?

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#### 2. Review: John the Baptist & The Axe

Matthew 3:10 says:

“The axe is already laid at the root of the trees...”

This connects to Isaiah 10:33–34, where judgment is pictured as trees being cut down.

But Isaiah 11 gives hope:

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse...”

**Key Thought:**

Judgment is not the end of the story. God brings forth a King.

**Notes:**

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#### 3. Marking Movement: Matthew 3:13

Matthew 3:13 begins a new scene.

**Who?**

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**What?**

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**When?**

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**Where?**

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**Why?**

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#### **4. Why Was Jesus Baptized?**

John knew Jesus did not need repentance.

Jesus said:

“Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

Matthew 3:15

Jesus was not baptized because He was sinful.

He was baptized because He was identifying Himself with the people He came to save.

#### **Key Truth:**

Jesus stepped into the water beside sinners before He ever preached a sermon, performed a miracle, or called a disciple.

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#### **5. Isaiah 53 Connection**

Read Isaiah 53:5 and Isaiah 53:12.

**Isaiah 53:5**

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**Isaiah 53:12**

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**What do these verses reveal about Jesus' mission?**

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**6. The Trinity Revealed**

At Jesus' baptism, all three Persons of the Trinity are revealed at once.

**The Son**

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**The Spirit**

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**The Father**

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“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17

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**7. Why a Dove?**

The dove would remind a Jewish audience of:

**Genesis**

The Spirit hovering over the waters.

**Noah**

The dove returning after judgment.

**These images point to:**

- New Creation
- New Beginning

- New Covenant

**Notes:**

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**8. The Father's Voice**

The Father's words echo two important Messianic passages.

**Psalm 2:7**

"You are My Son..."

**Isaiah 42:1**

"My chosen one in whom I delight..."

God identifies Jesus as both:

- The promised King
- The suffering Servant

**Why does that matter?**

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**9. Personal Application**

Notice when the Father speaks affirmation over Jesus.

Before:

- A miracle
- A sermon
- A healing
- A disciple
- A public success

**Big Takeaway:**

God's approval of Jesus was rooted in relationship, not performance.  
And in Christ, ours is too.

**Reflection Questions**

When do I feel most approved?

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Is my worth tied to what I do or who I am in Christ?

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Why do I struggle to believe God loves me before I have "done enough"?

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**10. BibleHub Practice**

Go to BibleHub.com.

**Practice 1: Cross References**

Look up Matthew 3:17.

Find the cross references for:

- Psalm 2:7
- Isaiah 42:1

**What did you notice?**

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**Practice 2: Parallel Gospel Viewer**

Compare the baptism of Jesus in:

- Matthew 3
- Mark 1
- Luke 3

**What do all three Gospel writers include?**

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**11. Homework**

Study the Jordan River.

Search “Jordan River” on BibleHub.

Ask:

- What major biblical events happened at the Jordan River?
- What did Israel experience there?
- How might Jesus fulfill what Israel only received in part?

Examples to explore:

- Joshua crossing the Jordan
- Israel entering the Promised Land
- Deliverance imagery

**My discoveries:**

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**Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You for revealing Jesus as Your beloved Son.  
Teach me to live from identity, not performance.  
Help me study Your Word with hunger, humility, and joy.  
Open my eyes to see Jesus more clearly.  
Amen.