

# MY FIRST MESSAGE



## STORIES OF JESUS

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# JESUS IS BAPTIZED

**W**hile Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called “the Baptizer,” was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and plain, like his desert surroundings: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.”

John dressed in a camel-hair robe tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey.

**If you saw John,  
what would you  
think about him?**





People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.




**Why was John  
angry with the  
Pharisees and  
Sadducees?**



**W**hen John realized that a lot of **Pharisees and Sadducees** were showing up because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: “What do you think you’re doing down here? Do you think a little water on you is going to make any difference? It’s your life that must change, not your skin! What counts is your life. Is it green and blossoming? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.”

**I**'m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned.”



**Why does God  
change us from  
the inside out?**



Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not *you!*"

But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."



# PRAY

**Ask Jesus to change you on the inside—in your heart, soul, and mind. Tell God about anything you especially want his help with in your life.**



# LIVE

**Discuss baptism with your family.**

**Has anyone you know been baptized? Where?**

**Who baptized them? What was it like?**

**Why did they get baptized?**

**Draw a picture of Jesus being baptized by John and the Holy Spirit.**