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**Next Week's Life Group:** John 15:1-17

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**Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus**

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

**The Purpose of Life Groups**

Life Groups are where we connect and grow with God and with others through relationships; growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus. Life Groups are loving, safe and interactive; a place where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others to inspire a culture of discipleship as we do life together. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



**HOLY SPIRIT**

**APR 21-22, WEEK 1**

**LIFE  
GROUPS  
GUIDE**

## Holy Spirit

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17*

**Getting Started:** What makes someone a "son" or a "daughter"?

**Context:** Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (*Matthew 3:1-2*) During this time of spiritual awakening in Israel John the Baptist was the one "leading the charge", commissioned, and instructed by God to pave the way to the true One, who would come and bring the kingdom of God to them. John was "Elijah who was to come", the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy from Isaiah 40, for he came in the "spirit and power of Elijah" Luke 1:16-17. John declared, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove his sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (*Matthew 3:11*). John was referring to Jesus, who at the age of 30, began His three-year ministry. But something unexpected happened. To "*fulfill all righteousness*" *Matthew 3:15*. Jesus had to be baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan. Jesus was not a repentant sinner, but He identified Himself with tax collectors and sinners, the people He came to save. This event marks the beginning of His ministry and also gives a beautiful presentation of the Godly Trinity; Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending upon Him, and the Holy Father, calling Jesus "*My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.*"

*"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." – Galatians 4:6*



**Story/Passage:** Matthew 3:11-17

## The Baptism of Jesus

### Head Level

These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.



- Who was this John the Baptist, and by what authority could he baptize others for repentance?
- Do you think Jesus needed to be baptized? Explain.
- Is water baptism necessary for salvation?

### Heart Level

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.



- How does a "baptism of repentance" prepare someone for the arrival of Jesus? How is this done today?
- Read Galatians 4:6-7. How does this verse make you feel? In what way is this meaningful for you.
- How does baptism with water compare to baptism with the Holy Spirit?

### Hands Level

These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.



- If you are indeed a Son or Daughter of God with whom He is well pleased, what are some of the practical implications?
- If you have been baptized with water, share your story, including why you decided to do so and what it has meant in your life as a believer.