

Jim's Baptism

Key Word: **Pleased**

Key Verse: And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, The Beloved with whom I am well pleased." *Matthew 3:17*

Jim had not noticed anything his pastor had said, since his thoughts were on the football game later that day. In class their teacher had started asking about baptism. She asked everyone who was baptized to put their hands up. Most of the class had no idea whether they were baptized.

Jim's mom laughed when he'd asked the question. "Baptism? What's that?" she asked. "I think it's like christening," Jim said. "You know, when you take the baby to church and get water poured on its head." Jim's mom answered, "No, we never had you baptized. We never got around to it."

Next Sunday, Jim's teacher asked again, "How many of you are baptized?" Jim looked around and discovered that most of his friends had been. "I'm going to be!" yelled Jim.

Then Jim had to persuade his mother to ask the pastor if he could be baptized the next Sunday. Instead of saying, "Yes, that'll be all right," the pastor had said he needed to talk to Jim.

The pastor asked Jim, "Are you sure you want to follow Jesus for the rest of your life?" and Jim had kept his head down and muttered "Yes." Then he watched a video about a baby being christened, and told the pastor he really wanted to be baptized soon.

The day had arrived and Jim was shaking. It was worse because his class was watching. He muttered through the responses, then stood with his head over the font. He found himself thinking, "Help me, Jesus, to follow you." He had no idea where the thought had come from. He shut his eyes as the water poured over his head and he thought, "This is God's love pouring over me, washing away all the hurt in my life." Again, he didn't know where it came from. It was such an incredible thought and feeling that he gasped. As the pastor finished, Jim looked up. In the window was the most beautiful butterfly he'd ever seen. He knew that it was a sign of God's promise that God would always be with him and always love him.

He knew this was the most important day of his life. Jim looked up at the butterfly and smiled.

Questions

Why was Jim nervous about being baptized?

Why was John the Baptist not sure about baptizing Jesus?

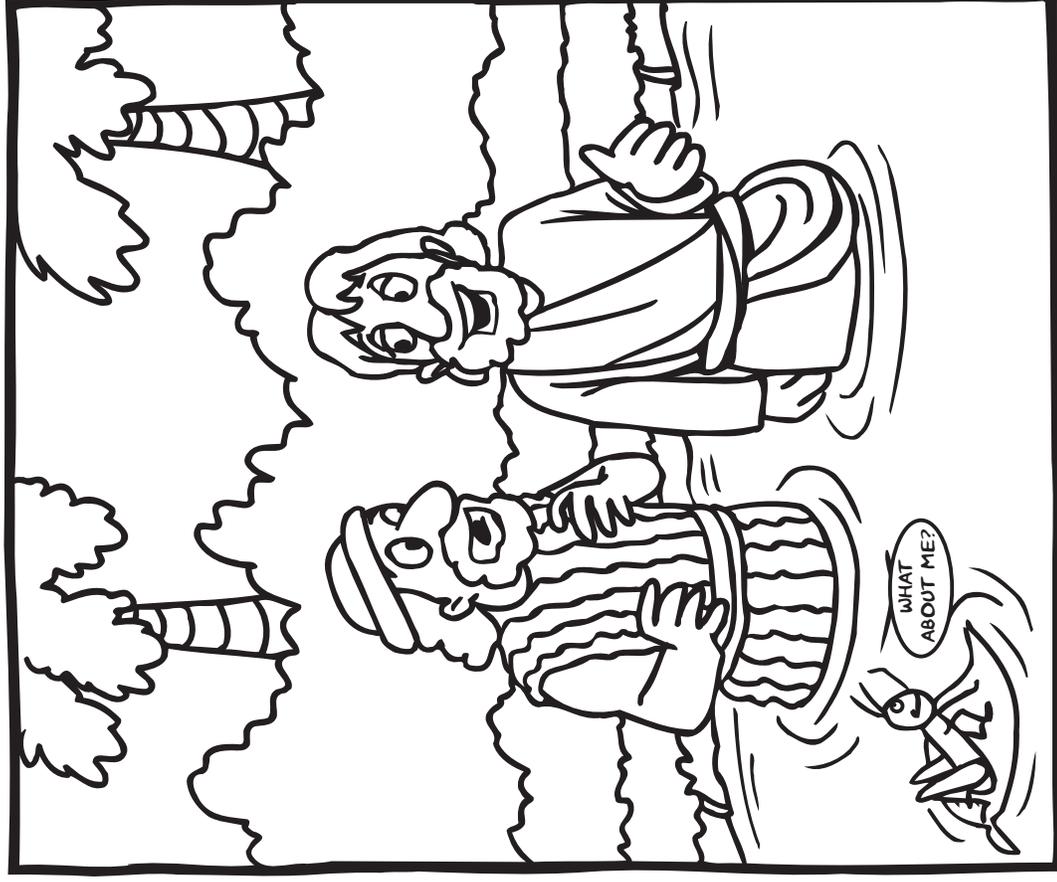
This is my Son with Whom I am well pleased.

Cryptogram

Answers

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Across | Down |
| 4. Fulfill | 1. Spirit |
| 5. Come | 2. Son |
| 9. Baptize | 3. Beloved |
| 10. Jesus | 6. Pleased |
| 11. Dove | 7. Galilee |
| | 8. Heavens |

Crossword Puzzle



Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Matthew 3:13-17

