

Imagine this scene and discuss what the experience would have been like for the following people:

- John the Baptist
- Jesus
- The crowd

Why did Jesus need to get baptised? How is Jesus's baptism different to Christian baptism (such as that practiced in Acts 2:38-41).

What is the significance of the Holy Spirit coming to rest upon Jesus? (look at Genesis 1:2)?

Did Jesus already possess the Holy Spirit before his baptism (see Luke 1:35)?

What does Jesus' baptism tell us about his dependence upon the Holy Spirit?

Look at the Old Testament background to the words spoken to Jesus by God the Father and discuss the significance of each

- "You are my son" (Psalm 2:7-9)
- "Whom I love" (Genesis 22:1-2)
- "In you I am well pleased [literally: 'in whom I delight'] (Isaiah 42:1)

What picture of Jesus do these words paint? What does this tell us about the identity and calling of Jesus?

Read Col 3:3. In what sense is our identity wrapped up in Jesus?

Because our identity is in Christ, in what sense can we hear the words of the Father in Luke 3:22 spoken to us?

Imagine hearing God say to you: "You are my son/daughter, my beloved; in you I take great delight." How would that make you feel?

How is this related to the question of human identity? Where should/does our identity in life come from?

How can this passage help you develop a stronger sense of your identity in Christ?