

An illustration of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with a red sash. He has his arms outstretched in a gesture of blessing or offering. Below him is a stylized Earth with green continents and blue oceans. The background consists of numerous blue and white rays emanating from behind Jesus, creating a sense of divine light and glory. The overall style is modern and graphic.

Redemption through **JESUS**

(Part One)



FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES



FAMILY LIFE RESOURCES

Growing Together, Rooted in Faith - Colossians 2:7

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

Redemption Through Jesus

INTRODUCTION

***"In the beginning was the Word
And the Word was with God
And the Word was God.***

***He was with God in the beginning.
Through Him all things were made.
Without Him, nothing was made that has been made.***

***In Him was life, and that life
Was the light of all mankind." John 1:1-4***

The entirety of the Old Testament is to introduce us to the redemption found in Jesus.

The Passover, the ancestry of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the genealogies, the Law, the Prophets, the history of the Israelites, and the sacrificial system - all were recorded so that we might better under-

stand the purpose of the coming of Christ.

Jesus Christ himself said "I come to proclaim the good news of the kingdom"
Matthew 4:23

In this family resource, we briefly lay out the story of Jesus coming to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 5:17

LESSON 1

The Baptism of Jesus.

Parent's Passage: Matthew 3:11-17

Family Reading: Mark 1:1-15,

Key Verse: Luke 3:22

... and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began his public ministry. His cousin, John the Baptist, had been preaching a message of repentance near the Jordan River. John was calling the Jewish people to return to the ways of Jehovah. (See Luke Chapter 3)

Jesus came to be baptized by John. As He was praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice from heaven spoke: *"You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased."* Luke 3:22

Jesus said He was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness."

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.
(Matthew 3:15)

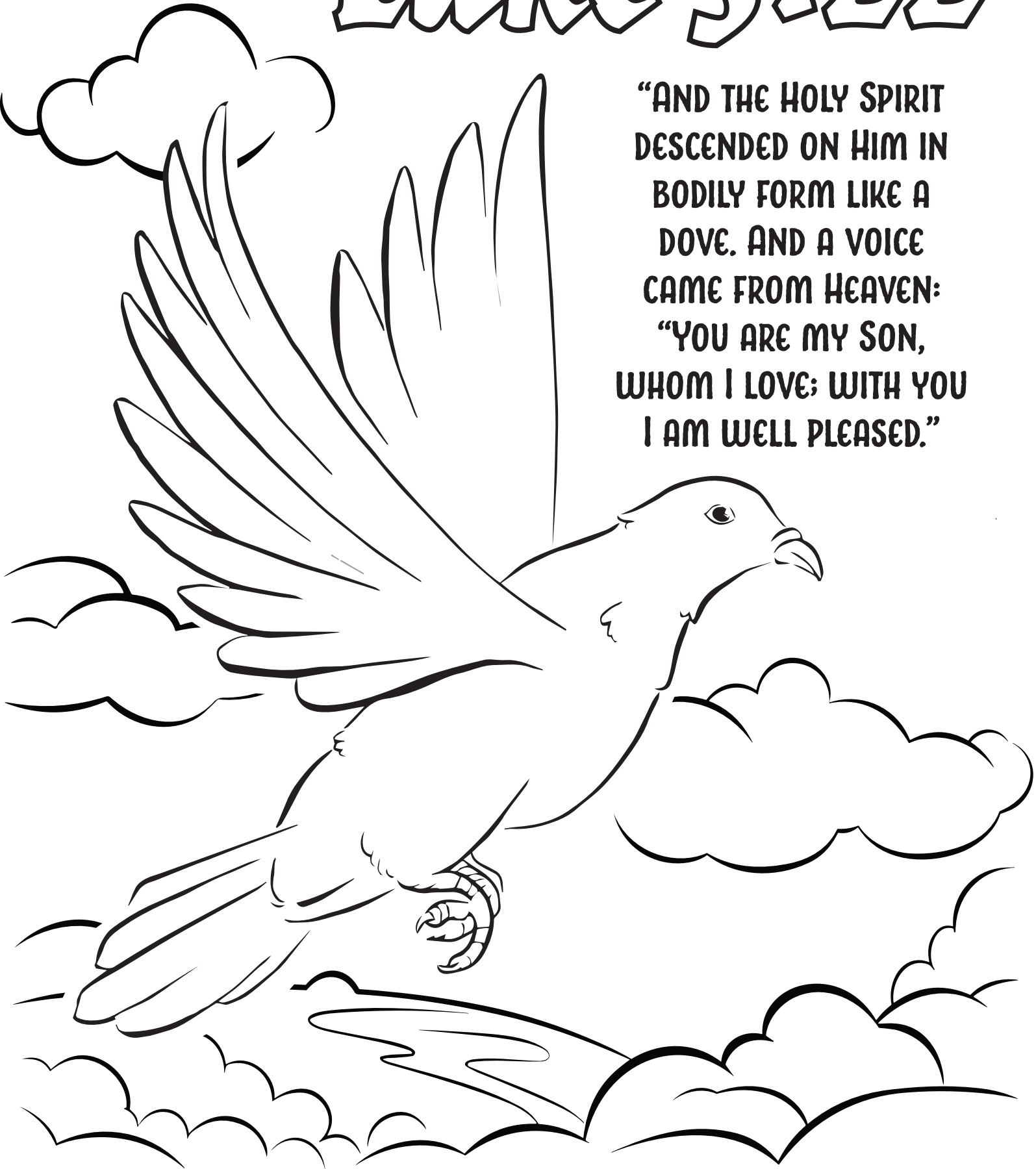
God confirmed Jesus as His son at the time of His baptism. This moment marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

We are also called to follow Jesus. He calls us to repent- to turn away from our sins - and to choose God's way.

He calls us to be baptized, just like He was. Baptism identifies us with Christ and with His church.

Luke 3:22

**“AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
DESCENDED ON HIM IN
BODILY FORM LIKE A
DOVE. AND A VOICE
CAME FROM HEAVEN:
“YOU ARE MY SON,
WHOM I LOVE; WITH YOU
I AM WELL PLEASED.”**



LESSON 2

Jesus Heals

Parent's Passage: Mark Chapter 2

Family Reading: Mark 2:2-12

Key Verse: Mark 1:14-15

"Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Shortly after Jesus was baptized, He began teaching. The people listened because He taught them as one who had authority.

He demonstrated His spiritual authority by driving out evil spirits, and He showed his authority over the physical realm by bringing healing to many people.

Whole towns gathered to listen to His teaching and to bring those with various diseases to him for healing.

In Mark chapter 2 it says huge crowds came to hear Jesus.

"They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. (Mark 2:2)

The crowd was so large that those who were ill couldn't even get near Jesus.

One group of men lifted their paralyzed friend up to the roof, made an opening in it, and lowered him down to Jesus feet.

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Instead of immediately proclaiming the man healed, Jesus proclaimed him forgiven! Some of the teachers of the law questioned Him. ***"On what authority do you make these claims?"*** they asked.

Jesus answered that he made these claims on his own authority. He backed this up by also healing the paralyzed man. His healing power confirmed both the authority and the purpose of Jesus Christ.

When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

(Mark 2:16-17)

CONCLUSION

Jesus began his ministry, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. He introduced a new way of living in Matthew 5 - 7. He offered both spiritual and physical healing, as well as forgiveness. Most importantly, He offered the promised redemption for all people (John 3:16):

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus proved his words to be true through His life, His death and by His resurrection from death.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

How many of the miracles of Jesus can you remember? Take time as a family to sit in a circle to recall and write down as many of Jesus' miracles as you can.

Hint - Mark Chapter 1 begins recounting the miracles of Jesus, and they continue through chapters 2 and 3.

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LESSON 3

The Greatest Commandment

Parent's Passage: Exodus 20

Family Reading: Matthew 22:35-40

Key Verse: Matthew 22:37

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

Throughout Jesus' ministry, the teachers of the law frequently challenged Jesus. They would ask questions to test his knowledge and understanding.

The crowds were amazed at Jesus' answers and His wisdom. Matthew 22:33 says, ***"They were astonished at His teaching."***

They tried to test him with questions concerning the law. ***"Which is the greatest commandment in the law?"*** they asked.

Jesus answered:

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

(Matthew 22:37-40)

When we examine the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:3-17), we get a better understanding of what Jesus meant.

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Exodus 20 In Summary

V. 3 - *You shall have no other gods before me.*

V. 4 - *You shall not make for yourself an image to worship.*

V. 7 - *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*

V. 8 - *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

These commandments were summed up by Jesus when He went to the heart of the matter: ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”***

Exodus 20 continues:

V. 12 - *Honor your father and your mother.*

V. 13 - *You shall not commit murder.*

V. 14 - *You shall not committed adultery.*

V. 15 - *You shall not steal.*

V. 16 - *You shall not give false testimony.*

V. 17 - *You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions.*

Jesus summarized these commands by saying - ***“love your neighbor as yourself ”*** Jesus taught that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commands: loving God and loving others.

Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it by showing us how to love God and love others. Here is our command from Jesus himself:

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

(John 15:12)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Copy the verse strips below, then have your kids cut them apart and rearrange and glue them in the correct order on another sheet of paper. You can help them recite the verse a few times before they start the activity to help them remember it.

Matthew 22:36-39

commandment in the Law?

Teacher, which is the greatest

Jesus replied: Love the Lord your

like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

your soul and with all your mind.

God with all your heart and with

commandment, and the second is

This is the first and greatest

LESSON 4

Jesus is Greater than the Cross

Parent's Passage: Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23;
10:9-10; 10:13

Family Reading: Luke 9:20-27

Key Verse: Luke 9:23

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me'".

Before the key verse, Jesus asked His disciples in verse 20 ***"Who do you say I am?"*** He was asking His closest friends, the ones He had been teaching and living day to day life with. These were the people who should have understood Him best. And Peter answers, ***"God's Messiah."***

So what is the Messiah? Peter and the other disciples understood that the Messiah was the fulfillment of the promises passed down through generations— stories told by their parents, grandparents, and ancestors. These weren't just "stories" but promises of someone whom God Himself would send to save them.

And Peter declaring this aloud is exciting! If you are not excited, read it again! Peter said with his voice in front of all of his friends that Jesus is ***"God's Messiah."*** Jesus is the perfect answer. Jesus is God's anointed. Jesus is the one who saves.

And now that you know who Jesus is, what do you do?

Like Peter, do you announce to your friends and others around you (even when you're not in a church) that He is your savior? Do you really believe that and want to follow Him as the only One that can save you?

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If your answer is yes, then this is exciting! And if you're not excited, then shout it again, **"Jesus is my Savior!"**

"There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

(Luke 15:10)

This is what joy is! It's that deep-down-in-your-soul feeling that everything is going to be okay because you believe in a God that knows more than you do. So even when things don't make sense to you—or life is sad or difficult—you can trust:

". . . that in all things God works for the good of those that love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." - (Romans 8:28)

Great! Jesus is my savior and I feel joy! But why is life still hard? Why do my friends make fun of me? Why do I still think about and want to do things that the Bible tells me I shouldn't?

This is where being happy can be confused with having Joy. Happiness is temporary, but Joy comes from the Lord, who is eternal.

Being happy feels good right now, but Joy is a deep-down strength that remains, no matter what's going on around you.

A Bible scholar from a very long time ago described this well: *"The body cannot be happy, if the soul is miserable [in other words, there is no joy] . . . but the soul may be happy [have joy], though the body is greatly afflicted."*

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

The things that make you feel unhappy - or even the things that you think make you happy but go against what the Bible teaches us, can pull you away from having a deeper relationship with the Lord - these are examples of your "cross."

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In Luke chapter 9, Jesus loves us enough to prepare us.

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me". (Luke 9:23)

This verse tells us the truth: in order to follow Him, we must be prepared to face difficulty. We will be expected to carry our own cross. It's what He did for us – and remember, He didn't even deserve the cross He carried!

But take heart! He never asks us to do anything that we can't do with Him who strengthens us.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
(Philippians 4:13)

FAMILY PRAYER

Pray as a family together:

"Jesus, you are greater than any cross. Thank you for telling me what is true. Thank you for preparing me for the times that will not be easy or may make me feel sad. I ask you, Lord, to give me strength through those times.

***Please help me to find greater Joy in you. If there is anything in my life that I need to change or stop altogether, please let me know what that is and I pray for the strength that only you can give me to make that change or to remove it from my life. I know you love me, Father. Help me to show my love for you, too.
Amen"***



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