

## Small Group Discussion Guide — May 30, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
  - Sermon: Jesus the Son
  - Scripture: Matthew 3: 13-17
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK**

What was one thing you were able to do last week because COVID restrictions are being lifted that gave you a sense of joy? Did it draw you closer to God in any way?

### **CONNECT**

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Have you ever had an experience that changed everything? Share with the group.

### **ENGAGE**

1. Read Matthew 3: 13-15.
  - Imagine you are a witness to this scene, as Jesus enters public ministry for the first time. What are some things that grab your attention? How do you imagine the crowd responded to this interaction?
  - What does verse 14 suggest about Jesus' character? About John's understanding of who Jesus is?
  - What do you think Jesus means in verse 15?
2. Read Matthew 3: 16-17. What do these verses tell you about the relationship between God and Jesus? What do they tell you about God's love for the world and plan that was unfolding?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5: 21. How does this verse relate to the passage in Matthew? (In other words, Jesus did not need to be baptized since he was sinless, and also he became sin for us in his sacrificial death.)

### **APPLY**

1. Pete suggests that, in addition to this being his public entrance into ministry, Jesus standing on the edge of the Jordan River paints a beautiful picture of him "standing in line" with us, identifying with the people who were seeking God by being baptized. How does this idea challenge the way you've read this story before? How did Jesus being baptized change everything?
2. Verses 16 and 17 describe a scene in which God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all present at once. God says, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." As a child of God, what do you think about the idea that God would say this sentence about you? Is this an easy concept to embrace, or a difficult one? Why? \

### **PRAYER**

Father, thank you that Jesus stands with us as we take steps to move closer to You. Thank you that, through his sacrificial death for our sins, he made a way for us to live with you. As Jesus lived his earthly life in complete obedience to you, Father, may our hearts be open to you and our desires surrendered to your perfect will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. Read John 1: 29-34, another account of John baptizing Jesus. At one point, John exclaims, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" What do you think it means to "behold Jesus"? What are some practical ways we can move to an attitude of "beholding" Jesus with excitement, instead of just having an awareness of Him?
2. Read Isaiah 42: 1-7. Where do you see Jesus in these verses? From this Old Testament prophet's words, how would you describe the character of God in this passage?

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 1: 3

Isaiah 42

### **QUOTATIONS**

"The gentlest treatment of yourself is less gentle than the way your heavenly Father handles you."

*Dane Ortlund*