



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Two

Pastor Mark shared about John the Baptist pointing to Jesus and declaring that He's the true savior the crowds had been looking for. Soon after, Jesus was baptized by John. There are important things to learn about God's heart for his children. Ultimately, God wants us to know who we truly are by looking at Jesus.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,
I look for your Spirit.
I listen for your voice.
Call my name!
May my life bring you joy O Lord.
Amen

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 1.29-31

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'³¹ I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

- John repeated the proclamation of verse 29 later in verse 35. Pastor Mark said, "Sometimes we have to be repetitive because it matters." In the face of all kinds of temptations and distractions for us as Jesus followers, we have to be diligent—and even repetitive—when it comes to pointing out the work of Jesus.
- *Make this proclamation a prayer, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 3.13-17

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

- This is one of the most dramatic scenes in the whole Bible. God is announcing the identity of the rescuer who would later declare his mission by reading from the scroll in the synagogue. It seems that our encounters with God can lead us to live out his mission for us.
- As you pray, imagine yourself in the river with Jesus. What do you see? What do you hear?

WEDNESDAY: PHILIPPIANS 2.6-8

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

- If God had chosen to keep us at arm's length, we wouldn't be here today. You wouldn't be checking on this daily reading. But God's humility displayed in Christ put God within reach. Pastor Mark said, "Jesus is demonstrating a kind of risky vulnerability—not because he needed it for himself but because we need it." God stoops down to look us in the eye and show us the way to salvation.
- *Picture Jesus coming towards you. Pray a prayer of gratitude and invitation.*

THURSDAY: PHILIPPIANS 2.9-11

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,*

*¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

- Yesterday we saw the lengths God went to to get on our level. Through the lowering of Jesus Christ—all the way into a tomb—God found a way to raise His people up. Jesus' pattern of coming down and lifting up gives us a model for our own lives. In response, we bow down at the name of Jesus...so that we might be raised with Him!

- Ask God to raise you up with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

FRIDAY: ISAIAH 43.1-3

this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

²*When you pass through the waters,*

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

³*For I am the LORD your God,*

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

- God speaks through the prophet Isaiah. It is a promise that God’s people have been called by name and redeemed. It is a promise that God will bring you through the waters. This is not a direct reference to baptism, but the image of God bringing us through waters and into new life is connected. God in Jesus Christ is our Savior!
- *Pray about the waters and fires of your life today. Ask God to remind you of His promise to never leave you. Do not fear.*

SATURDAY: ACTS 2.1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- The Spirit of God is often gentle and as invisible as the wind. But there are times when the Spirit appears in ways that meet all of our senses. Has the Spirit ever shown up in your life in an unsettling way? Have you experienced the Spirit of God appear as gentle as a dove?
- *Pray for eyes to see and a heart to feel the presence of God’s Spirit in all the ways He shows up.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Share your baptism story. If you desire to be baptized and raised with Jesus Christ, or desire to recommit and return to the waters of baptism, sign up for baptism at prov.church/signup.