



Called by Name
ISAIAH 43:1

A voice spoke to him from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

—Mark 1:11 NIV

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New Testament Devotion

The Baptism of Jesus Christ: Called to Save

Amazing! As Jesus is baptized, God speaks from heaven, calls Jesus by name and declares him to be his Son. There is no longer any doubt about who Jesus is and how much he is loved by God. In these few words, God the Father publicly proclaims his approval of what Jesus plans to do—save sinners from their sin.

- **Have you ever had someone tell you they love you?**
- **Have you ever heard someone tell others they love you?**
- **When they said they loved you, how did you feel?**
- **How does it feel to know God loves you?**

God the Father's entire plan to save the world from sin was centered on Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus' baptism is the place we begin to really see God's plan unfold. Jesus would teach others about God's love. Jesus would show God's love by doing miracles. Jesus would die on a cross to save us from our sins. Jesus would rise from death and live again so everyone who believes in him can live in heaven some day. Jesus was called to save the world because God loves everyone and everything he created. Jesus was called to save the world so we can live with him some day.

- **Do you believe Jesus died and rose from death to save you from your sins?**
- **Do you believe you will live in heaven some day?**
- **How does it feel to know God calls you by name to be forgiven?**
- **How does it feel to know God calls you by name to live in heaven with him some day?**

When Jesus was baptized, he showed us what God's plan for us is, too. God wants us to be baptized and become part of his family. This is amazing! God wants us! When we are baptized, God calls each of us by name, just as he called Jesus by name. When we are baptized, God tells us he loves us and God includes us in his family as one of his children.

- **Have you been baptized into God's family?**
- **If so, were you baptized as a child or an adult?**
- **If you are not baptized, would you like to be baptized?**
- **Who could you talk to about being baptized?**

When we believe Jesus is the Son of God and he died and rose to save us, we are forgiven of our sins. God also calls us by name to be his child and live with him forever in heaven.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save us. You called Jesus by name when he was baptized and you call us by name, too. Thank you for forgiving us when we sin. Help us remember your love for us as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.