

At home this week, spend some time with some of the following questions:

1. The voice that spoke at Jesus' baptism said, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

What might God say to you in such a moment?

We often project the relationship we had or have with our own parents on to God...take a moment and drop your preconceptions of how God might feel about you. Spend some time in meditation and ask God to come and let you know what he feels about you...imagine him coming into the room and sitting down across from you...

What does he say?

2. During Jesus' time, many citizens of Rome worshipped the emperor with sayings like "Caesar is the son of god." We get the sense that John's preaching challenged the socio-political structure of his day, in particular the authority of King Herod and the power of Rome. In light of this fact, what might revealing Jesus as the "Son of God" have implied?

What does the practice of your faith say to the powers of our day?

3. Review all the prayer requests from your small group friends and pray for each one, by name. If you have time, jot a little note out to them and let them know you prayed for them.

Next Sunday, Jan. 20, 2012: "Changing Your Name"

People love the story of Jesus changing water into wine...and we tend to think of it as a miracle which revealed the power Jesus had. This year, however, we will focus on Mary's instruction to the servers: "Do whatever he tells you."



"invite & engage"

January 13, 2013 Luke 3:15-22

"Passing Through"

Rev. Steven F. Peralta

Sermon Notes:



homework

1. Read Luke 3:15-22 and answer the following questions:
Who is singled out of the crowd John is preaching to? Who are they connected to?

Why is John put into prison? Who has he angered and/or threatened?

During his baptism, Jesus hears a voice...is it for him, the crowd, or the reader? Why might this detail be important?

2. Look up Isaiah 43:1-7. How might these words be connected to Jesus' experience with his baptism?

group study

1. What kinds of expectations do you have for the future? What are they based on? What gives you courage or hope to move forward?
2. Have someone read Luke 3:15-22 out loud and then share your responses to the homework.
3. If Jesus was sinless, why do you think he chose to be baptized?
4. John baptized many people...how is Jesus' different? What might John have seen in Jesus' baptism?
5. In worship this week, we sang songs about God's power and transcendence. We also sang songs about God's tenderness and imminence. How are both of these aspects of God's nature represented in Jesus' baptism?
6. This moment really becomes the point where Jesus chooses to fulfill the role he was born for: Savior and Revealer of God. Have you experienced a moment where you felt God calling and affirming you? If so, when was it and what was it for?
7. We have identified ourselves with this Christian community and this way of life Jesus set for us...how do we receive assurance that indeed, God is with us?