



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Luke 3:21-22

[21] Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, [22] and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Inaugural Oath (21)
- II. The Inaugural Anointing (22)
- III. The Inaugural Address (22)

Life Group Leader Notes:

This week's sermon helps us think about the doctrine of God. In two short verses we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together at Jesus' baptism. The first few questions on this sermon discussion guide will help your group mine the depths of the doctrine of God. The final few questions will help apply the truth of Jesus' baptism and humility in our lives. If you need to brush up on the doctrine of God, Michael Reeves book *Delighting in the Trinity*, is an excellent resource.





• In Luke 3:22, the Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. Take a few minutes to discuss why it was necessary for Jesus - the Son of God - to be anointed by the Spirit. There is a heretical teaching that overemphasizes the *humanity* of Jesus, at the expense of his deity. This teaching claims that Jesus had emptied himself of his divinity in the incarnation, so he *needed* the Spirit's power to fulfill his ministry. Discuss why this view is unbiblical. Why is this view of God insufficient to save us? Why must we uphold the full divinity & humanity of Christ?

• Another ancient heresy on the doctrine of God is Modalism, which states that God, who is One, manifests himself in three different modes. He shifts between Father, Son, and Spirit. This view is often packaged in our favorite analogies of the Trinity (water can manifest in three modes: liquid, steam, and ice). Why is this heresy logically attractive? How does the story of Jesus' baptism disprove this heresy? Why is this view of God insufficient to save us?

• If you have ever wondered why Jesus was baptized, you're not alone. This has puzzled Christian thinkers throughout church history. Even John the Baptist protested when Jesus stepped into the water. But, as Jesus said, he was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Pastor Scott summarized three reasons that Jesus was baptized.

-He was signaling his readiness for the kingdom of God and his readiness to fulfill the duties of the office.

-He was setting an example of obedience to us.

-He was identifying with sinful humanity. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Discuss these answers with your group. Here is a helpful resource as you think about this with your group:

<https://www.ligonier.org/podcasts/ask-ligonier/why-did-jesus-have-to-be-baptized>

• Luke's description of Jesus' baptism has fewer details than the other gospels. In fact, John the Baptist isn't even mentioned. Pastor Scott suggested that Luke understated the *event* to focus on the *voice of God*. What did the voice say? Why is this so important to the story?

• Jesus lived a humble life from start to finish. The cross was simply the culmination of his humility. Take a few minutes to describe all the ways in which Jesus chose to humble himself.

• Philippians 2:5-8 tells us to have the same attitude as Christ, who humbled himself. We tend to think of humility passively - there are times in life when we are *humbled*. But Paul in Philippians tells us to approach humility like Jesus, actively pursuing it. How can we actively humble ourselves before the Lord this week?

• During the worship, Hunter read the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Did you relate to either son as he described the story? How did the time of worship encourage you to approach God?

