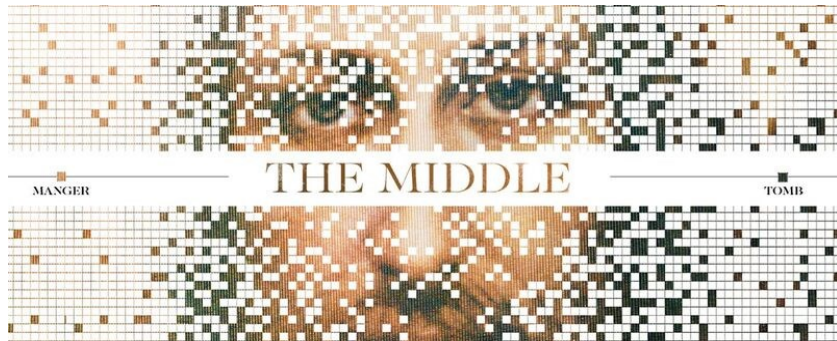


August 6, 2017



## The Journey Begins (The Baptism of Jesus)

*Matthew 3:13-17 (HCSB)*

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.<sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?"<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him to be baptized. <sup>16</sup> After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. <sup>17</sup> And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!*

1. The Middle shows us that we need to recognize our own unworthiness before Jesus.
2. The Middle shows us that Jesus came to identify with sinners.

*Isaiah 53:11-12 (HCSB)*

*He will see it out of His anguish, and He will be satisfied with His knowledge. My righteous Servant will justify many, and He will carry their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil, because He submitted Himself to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.*

*Galatians 4:6-7 (ESV)*

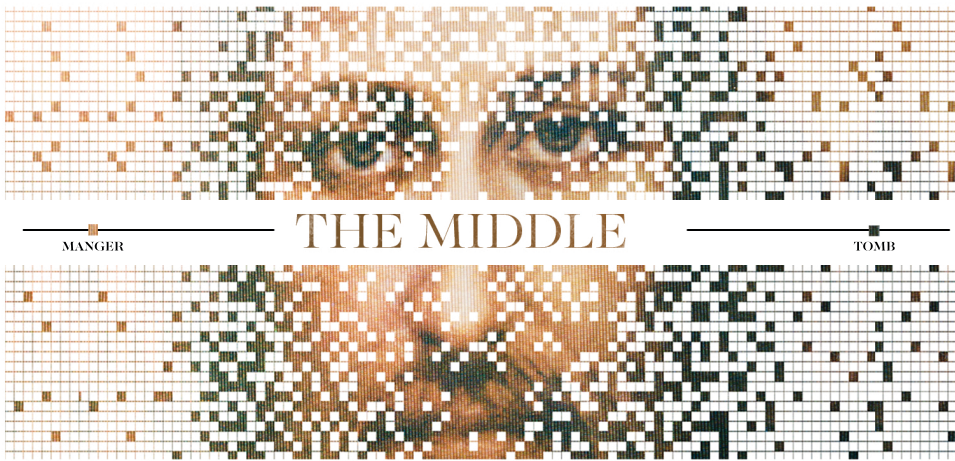
*And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son, into our hearts crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

3. The Middle shows us God's pleasure with the Son. (Matthew 3:17)

4. The Middle shows us that baptism isn't just an important part of the Christian life, but an imperative part of the Christian life.

Matthew 3:1-2 (HCSB)

*In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!"*



## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

MATTHEW 3:13-17

#NVSTORYSHARE

Gather family or friends and **retell the story of Jesus' baptism** - do as best you can, do not stop and teach, try not to make points (commentary), just tell the story.

**Rebuild the Story** - chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. Like - "What happened first?", "What happened next?", "Did we leave out anything?" Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

**Ask Questions** - General questions to ask after each story. These questions may lead to follow up questions that you ask as you dig deeper into the groups/individuals response to the initial questions

- **What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?**
- **What do we learn about man in the story?**
- **What did you learn new in the story?**
- **What questions does this raise for you?**

## PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

- Who baptized Jesus?
- What does baptize mean?
- Why was John surprised that that Jesus wanted to be baptized?
- Why did Jesus get baptized when He didn't sin?
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water?
- What did the voice from heaven say?
- Why is it important to please God?
- What's one thing you will do this week to show that you love God?
- What does one have to do to have our Father say He is pleased with us?
- Was God pleased with Jesus because of His behavior or because of His identity?

## CHILDRENS

- Older Child #1 - What does this story teach us about people?
- OC2 - How can you please God?
- Younger Child #1 - Why do people get baptized?
- YC2 - How can you make God happy?

## STUDENTS

- Share the story of your baptism.
- If you have not been baptized would you like to schedule a time to be baptized?

## COLLEGE

- Why did Jesus ask to be baptized?
- How could Jesus' example of being baptized be a call to obedience for us?
- What keeps you from doing something that may benefit others, but be humbling to you?

## ADULT

- What does one have to do to have our Father say He is pleased with us?
- Was God pleased with Jesus because of His behavior or because of



# THE MIDDLE

MY  
TIME  
WITH  
GOD

## MONDAY

**Read Matthew 3:13-15** - Verse 14 records John's reaction to being asked to baptize Jesus. Are you surprised by this reaction? John's hesitance in baptizing Jesus makes sense. John's baptism presupposed sinfulness, and John knew Jesus was sinless. For this reason he made a strong objection. That John recognized Jesus' superiority is reflected in his words, "I need to be baptized by you." Thus Jesus was not baptized for any sin in His life. There was none. Why was Jesus baptized, even though He didn't need to repent of His sins?

The sinless Jesus had no sin from which to turn. Why, therefore, did He desire baptism? Jesus didn't need to repent; He is repenting for others. This is His mission. He came to do what we cannot do for ourselves. Since we cannot atone for our sins, Jesus does it for us. We have the whole gospel in the opening moments of Jesus public life.

## TUESDAY

**Read Matthew 3:16-17** - What do we learn about Jesus in verse 17? What do we learn about God the Father? In your own words, how would you describe the importance of Jesus being both fully God and fully man? In what ways is Jesus a bridge between God and us? "This is my beloved Son" underscores the source of unity among the three Persons of the Trinity. Love binds and perfects. That Jesus is, in fact, the Son underscores His identity as the Messiah. "I take delight in Him" is a tender expression of the Father who is deeply pleased in the obedience of the Son who has taken fully the form of a man.

**Read Matthew 28:19-20** - Why do you think Jesus commanded baptism when He sent out His disciples? Jesus commanded baptism as a sign of their new life in Christ—it is symbolic of the fact that when we trust Jesus, all our sin is washed away and we live life as a brand new creation. In Romans 6, Paul further explains the relationship between baptism and our faith in Christ.

## WEDNESDAY

**Read Romans 6:1-11** - How would you define God's grace? What kinds of changes would you expect to see in someone's life once he experiences God's grace through salvation?

Paul argued that, as Christians, we have died to sin. Sin no longer is the primary influence in our lives. Confession of Christ as Savior and acceptance of His Lordship means we have died to sin. We can't live in that to which we have died. Baptism is a symbol of that great change that has happened in someone's life. Why do you think baptism is a good picture of being dead to sin and being made alive in Christ?

# THE MIDDLE

MY  
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## THURSDAY

Being a believer in Christ means being united with Christ. A believer is identified with the object of his or her belief. For the Christian a mysterious but undeniable new relationship begins at the moment of confession. A union of believer and Lord occurs, thus we participate in His death and are freed from sin. Baptism serves as an illustration of death to an old way of life and resurrection to a new life. While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is an important symbol for what has happened in the life of the believer. Not only that, baptism is a tangible way to show all those around us that we identify with Jesus.

Why should baptism come after we have received salvation (see vv. 6-7)?

How would you help someone understand that baptism comes after salvation?

## FRIDAY

**Read 2 Timothy 1:7-9** - What do Paul's words say to those of us who might have fears or worries about being baptized? What are some of the excuses you have used, or have heard others use, for not getting baptized? How can you answer those excuses?

What are you saying to others when you take the step of baptism? Why is it so important?

What encouragement or support can you expect from the church when you declare your faith through baptism? How can we give that support to each other this week?

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:17**

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