



Posted on December 22, 2016  
Written by Nathanael Vissia

*This material is the copyrighted property of rfour.org. It is also free. Please use, improve and share this material. But do not ever pay for it, sell it or require any sharing of personal information for it.*

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

For more information visit [www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html](http://www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html)

Written for Sunday, January 8, 2017

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

**Scripture:** [Matthew 3:13-17](#) [Summary: *Jesus Is Baptized And Welcomes God's Holy Spirit* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning
- Have you ever had a friend or family member visit your home?
- What were some of the ways you and your family welcomed that friend or family member into your home? In other words, what were some things that you did ahead of time or once the guest arrived to make the guest feel at home?
- [Some answers to help the kids think of: *Cleaning up ahead of time, preparing a place for them if they are staying over, offering them something to eat/drink when they arrive, paying attention to them once they are there*]
- And why is it, do you think, that we do those things we just said to make someone feel at home?
- [Possible answers to help the kids think of: *Because we like them and want them to know it; because we want them to come back; because for special occasions and special people, you do special things*]

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- In today's scripture story, we hear about a different kind of guest.
- Instead of having a friend over to his house, Jesus welcomes God's Holy Spirit into himself [*point to your chest/heart and head/brain*].
- Did you notice the way Jesus prepared for and welcomed the Holy Spirit in today's story?
- That's right! He was baptized by John the Baptist.

- And what this baptizing looked like is that John and Jesus stood in the Jordan river and then John “dunked” Jesus (in a gentle way) into the Jordan River.
- It was like John was giving Jesus a very quick bath.
- Which, if we think back to what we were saying about preparing for guests, would be a lot like Jesus cleaning up before his guest (that is, God’s Holy Spirit) arrived, right?
- Then, once God's Holy Spirit is welcomed by Jesus, Jesus and the Holy Spirit do many amazing things together, don't they?

**SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- One of the things that Jesus did with the Holy Spirit is teach his disciples and us how to welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives just like he did.
- One way that Jesus teaches us that we can welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives is by praying, both by ourselves and with others -- like our family members and church members.
- Another way Jesus teaches us to welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives is by worshiping God together, just like we are doing this morning.
- Jesus also teaches us that we can better pay attention to God's Holy Spirit by learning and knowing the scripture stories -- Which is why we have Sunday school classes and the adults have Bible study classes.
- And, when we do these things to welcome God’s Holy Spirit into our lives, then we are better prepared to do the same things Jesus did: Share God’s healing love with those around us.
- And that’s the Good News for today: As we learn and do these things that Jesus teaches us about welcoming God's Holy Spirit in our lives, the more amazing things we and God can do together.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

**CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God...**

Dear God...

**Help us to welcome...**

Help us to welcome...

**...your Holy Spirit into our lives...**

...your Holy Spirit into our lives...

**Help us to listen and do...**

Help us to listen and do...

**...just like Jesus did.**

...just like Jesus did.

**Thank you and Amen.**