

THE COMING KINGDOM: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Week Six — Immersed in Identity****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

Matthew's account of the Gospel of Jesus focuses on Jesus' arrival, bringing the Kingdom of God into our reality. It is this Kingdom that we want to equip all of Missio, our kids included, to live into. Pray that our kids would see Jesus not just as a baby in a manger nor just as a way out of trouble but as the King over all heaven and earth. A good king who loves us.

- **Big Idea:** In Jesus and through the Spirit, we are immersed in a new identity, a new kingdom, and a new way of life.

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**
Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Sing Together**Story — from Matthew 3:13-4:11**

John "the Baptizer" is doing his thing, baptizing people in the Jordan River and preparing people's hearts for a coming king, a Messiah, who will show up one day and baptize people not just with water but with fire and the Holy Spirit.

Then, one day, Jesus does show up at the spot where John is baptizing people in the river. Jesus says to John, "Let's do this. I need you to baptize me in the river." John responds to

Jesus and says, “Um, no. I am the one who should be getting baptized by you in the river. Not the other way around.” But Jesus says back to John, “Nope! We have to do this so that God’s rescue plan will be fulfilled. I need to be baptized, and I want you to do it, John!” And John said, “Let’s do it then.”

When Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized, Matthew writes that the Spirit of God descended on Jesus like a dove landing on his shoulder. And then! Then they heard a voice from heaven, and the voice said, “This is my son, my beloved one. I am delighted with him.”

Then Matthew writes that as soon as Jesus was done getting baptized by John, the Spirit that just fell on to Jesus led him to a wilderness area where Jesus fasts and didn’t eat for forty days and forty nights. He was STARVING! Then a tempter comes along and says, “Hey Jesus, if you are really God’s son, tell these stones to turn into bread.” Jesus turns to the tempter and responds, “The Bible says that it takes more than bread to keep you alive. You actually live on every word that comes out of God’s mouth.”

Then the tempter takes Jesus to a holy city and stands him on the top of a temple and says, “If you are really God’s son, jump off of here. The Bible says that God will give his angels a command about you, and they will carry you in their hands so that you won’t hurt your foot against a stone.” The tempter tried to use the Bible to tempt Jesus to test God’s word. Jesus looks at the tempter and says, “But the Bible also says that you must not put the Lord your God to the test!”

Finally, the tempter took Jesus off again, this time to a very high mountain. There, he showed him all the magnificent kingdoms of the world and said, “I will give you all of these kingdoms if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus has about had it. This was the last straw. Satan wanted Jesus to worship him instead of God? Nope! Jesus says back to the tempter, “Get out of here satan! The Bible says, ‘Worship the Lord you God, and serve him alone!’”

[Dialogue Questions — you may use some or all]

- ▶ Why did Jesus need to be baptized?
- ▶ Why do you think it was important for Jesus and everyone else to hear the voice from heaven say, “This is my son, my beloved one. I am delighted with him.”?
- ▶ Have you ever been really hungry? What was that like for you?
- ▶ Have you ever wanted to be in charge? What was that experience like? When you were in charge, did you use that power for yourself or for the benefit of others?
- ▶ How did Jesus respond when he was tempted with pleasure, protection, and power? What did Jesus say and quote?
- ▶ How should we respond when we are tempted to worship other things or other people other than God?
- ▶ Why do you think Jesus was led to the wilderness to be tempted right after he was baptized?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshipping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshipping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that

points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.

Craft:

- Use the coloring sheet attached

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Sabbath** rhythm.

What are some ways you can rest in the truth of your identity now in Jesus. Take some time this week or weekend to stop, rest, and spend some intentional time with Jesus so that he can remind you that because he fulfilled God's rescue plan, you now have a new identity in God's kingdom and God now calls you son or daughter.

