



# Agenda



# 4-Part Bible Study

1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. The Lamb of God and His Disciples
3. The Healing of the Leper
4. Salt and Light

# Introduction – Letting Your Light Shine!

In April of 2021 the Missouri District rallied congregations, schools and ministries around Matthew 5:16 as Jesus compels His disciples (us) to let **our** light shine before **others** that they may see see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

The district-wide Servant Event entitled “SHINE!” in the NID is scheduled for April 14-23.





# Session One

## The Baptism of Jesus

## Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in the waters of John's Baptism, You identified Yourself with sinners, and yet, You were also revealed as God's sinless Son. Thank You for the gift of Holy Baptism where Your Spirit has clothed me with Your robes of righteousness, and I am identified as Your child. May Your baptismal grace resurrect in me daily a new creature who shines out Your grace to my neighbors.  
In Your Name. Amen.



# Session One

## **The Baptism of Jesus**

Today's world is often caught up with issues of identity. From politics, to gender, to favorite sporting teams, people seek to know themselves and others around them and determine what defines them both in relation to their community and at the core of their being.

# Opening Discussion:

## It's a question of Identity

Today's world is often caught up with issues of identity.

From politics, to gender, to favorite sporting teams, people seek to know themselves and others around them and determine what defines them both in relation to their community and at the core of their being.



# Identity - Discussion

## Question 1

- What is your identity in your family, your church, and your community?

## Question 2

- Does your identity in these relationships come from you or somewhere else?

## Question 3

- Is your identity in these relationships how you see yourself or how others see you or both?



# Matthew 3:1-12 ... John the Baptizer's Ministry

## John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**3** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

# Discussion on Matthew 3:1-12

1. Matthew chapter 3 follows on the heels of chapter 2 which ends with Joseph returning his family to Nazareth while Jesus is still a small child. So, what does Matthew mean by “in those days,” as he opens chapter 3?
2. Where does John the Baptizer carry out his ministry?  
Why do you think the Lord has him in the wilderness of Judea along the banks of the Jordan River?
3. What is the summary of John’s message to prepare God’s people for the Messiah?  
What is the significance of that message?

# Discussion on Matthew 3:1-12

4. How does Matthew contextualize John the Baptist's ministry in Matt. 3:3?

What does his description of John in verse 4 signify?

5. How does Matthew describe the initial results of John's ministry in Matthew 3:5-6?

6. Why does John address the Pharisees and Scribes as he does in Matthew 3:7-10?

To what does John point as their believed confidence for their salvation?

What is the urgency of John's message according to verse 10?

# Discussion on Matthew 3:1-12

7. What is the purpose for John's baptism as he himself states in Matthew 3:11?

8. How does John describe the coming Messiah's baptismal work?

# Matthew 3:13-17 ... The Baptism of Jesus

## The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

# Discussion on Matthew 3:13-17

1. Matthew sites Jesus' name in Matthew 3:13 which he has not done since Matthew 2:1. Why does he recall Jesus' name at this point?
  - According to Matthew, what is Jesus' clear intent in coming to the Jordan?
2. Discuss the exchange between Jesus and John in verses 14&15. How is every word of Jesus' response to John significant?
3. What signs are witnessed in Matthew's account which testify to the significance of Jesus' baptism?
  - What wonderful declaration does the Father in heaven make?

# Our Light Shining

## Question 1

- How does Jesus “shine forth” in His Baptism for you?

## Question 2

- How has the Lord declared us to be His beloved children, fitting us to “shine forth,” Christ’s love?



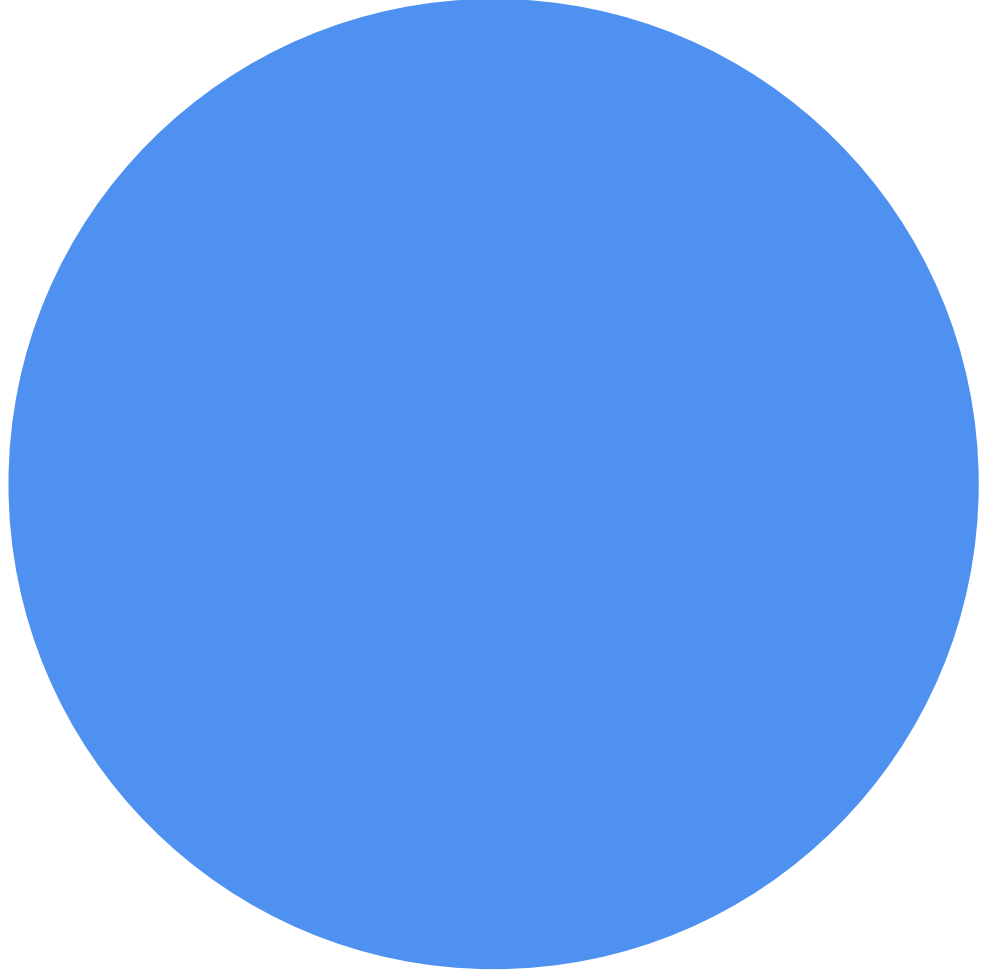
Thank you

## **The Lord's Prayer**

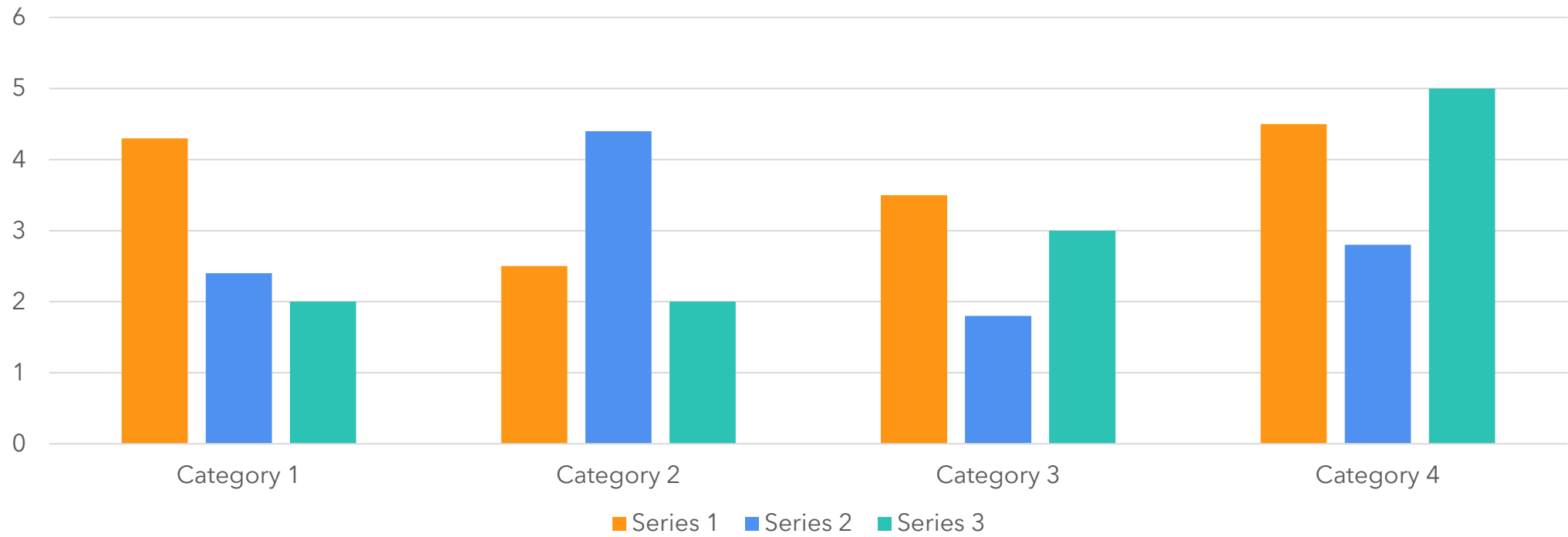
Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and  
the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.







# Chart



# Table

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Item 1	4.5	2.3	1.7	5
Item 2	3.2	5.1	4.4	3
Item 3	2.1	1.7	2.5	2.8
Item 4	4.5	2.2	1.7	7

# Team



**Name**  
Title



**Name**  
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**Name**  
Title

# Timeline

1

To start a presentation, go to the Slide Show tab, and select From Beginning.

2

To display Presenter view, in Slide Show view, on the control bar at the bottom left select the three dots, and then Show Presenter View.

3

During your presentation, the speaker notes are visible on your monitor, but aren't visible to the audience.

4

The Notes pane is a box that appears below each slide. Tap it to add notes.

5

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