

Mark 1:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

1. Why do you think Mark begins his gospel with Jesus' baptism and leaves out all of the detail from his early life?
2. Read the other three baptism accounts recorded in Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-34. What are the similarities and differences with Mark's account?
3. How does this scene help to establish Jesus' identity before his ministry begins?

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Passage: Mark 1:9-11
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4. Where do we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit present in this passage? How does this serve as an indication of the Trinity?

5. What is the similarity between the heavens being torn open and the temple curtain being to? What does both give us access to?

6. The Spirit descended like a dove. What might his imagery communicate about Jesus mission? How does this moment show Jesus being anointed as the Messiah?

7. How does this passage shape how we talk about baptism and spiritual formation in the church?