



SESSION 04: BAPTISM & TEMPTATION

Opening Prayer

Have mercy on me, God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me.

-Psalm 51:3-4

Small Group Discussion

1. John is sent by God into the wilderness, where he is prepared for the work that God has called him to do. The theme of being sent into the wilderness or the desert for preparation and for encounter with God is a recurring theme in the Bible. What other major figures in salvation history were sent into the wilderness by God? (See Gn. 12:1-9; 32:13-32; Ex. 3:1-6; 1 Kgs. 19:4-18.)

2. While he is preaching, John baptizes the people with a baptism of repentance. This act is a precursor to Christian Baptism. Christian Baptism is also prefigured in other events in the Bible. What events in the Old Testament are “types” (foreshadowings) of the Sacrament of Baptism? (See CCC 1217-1222; Gn. 1:1-2; 7:1-5; Ex. 14:15-22; Jo. 3:7-17).

3. Jesus, as the Son of God, is sinless. Why, then, is he baptized by John? Does he need to be baptized? How does the Father respond to Jesus’ baptism? (See CCC 535-537).

(over)



4. How does the temptation of Jesus in the desert by the Evil One reveal the kind of Messiah that he will be?

CLOSING PRAYER

Come, O Spirit of fortitude, and give fortitude to our souls. Make our hearts strong in all trials and in all distress, pouring forth abundantly into them the gifts of strength, so that we may be able to resist the attacks of the Devil. Amen.

ASSIGNMENT

Mission of Mercy

Session 5 Reading

Luke 4:14-44

Isaiah 61:2-1, 58:6

1 Kings 17:8-24

2 Kings 5:1-14

James 2:18-19

Recommended Bibles

The Catholic Study Bible Third Edition: New American Bible Revised Edition – ISBN: 978-0190267230, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 1, 2016)

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard Version, Third Edition – ISBN: 978-0195288834, Oxford University Press; College edition (February 2, 2007)