

### Aim of lesson

For the class to consider what dedicating their lives to God means.

### Bible background

Luke 2:41-52; 3:1-22; Matthew 3

### Outline of lesson

#### At home

Read together Luke 2:41-52. Use it to answer the first group of questions in the workbooks. Encourage the class to find out as much as possible about what was important to Jesus at this age; the things of God, the temple of God, understanding the teaching of God and learning about his Father.

Encourage them also to discuss the practice of being obedient to their parents. Help them to realise it would not always have been easy for Jesus to do this, but it was an important part of his dedication of his teen years to God and can be part of their dedication of their teens to God too.

#### John's answers

Read together Luke 3:7-18. Use the different members of your class to read the parts of the narrator, John, the soldiers, the crowd and the tax collectors. Ask the class to find the four pictures that show people whom John told what to do. What did he say to each? Ask them what the other two pictures illustrate and what they mean.

#### Jesus is baptised

In the following questions, encourage the class to consider what Jesus' thoughts might have been before he was baptised. Did he have any concerns about taking such a step? You may like to read together Matthew 3:13-16 as you come to this question. In the question about people today, make sure that the class realises that baptism is a sign of repentance and is for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

### Digging deeper

#### What do you know about John the Baptist?

This section develops the story of John the Baptist and fills in his background.

#### Relevance to our lives

You may like to have the class each ask a different member of your ecclesia during the week about why they were baptised and what it meant to them. Remember to leave time at the beginning of next week's lesson to have them compare notes.

A more mature class might like to look at Romans 6:1-4 to realise that baptism into Christ is more than just the washing away of past sins.

#### Prayer

Dear Father, please help us to be your sons and daughters, and to please you as Jesus did. (This lesson is suitable for the class to each write their own one line prayer of dedication.)

### Other suggestions for activities

- The class could make a recorded interview, reporting the happenings at the Jordan and speaking to the different groups of people who were there.
- The class could draw a cartoon-strip story of Matthew who, as a tax collector, may have come to be baptised by John and have witnessed the baptism of Jesus.