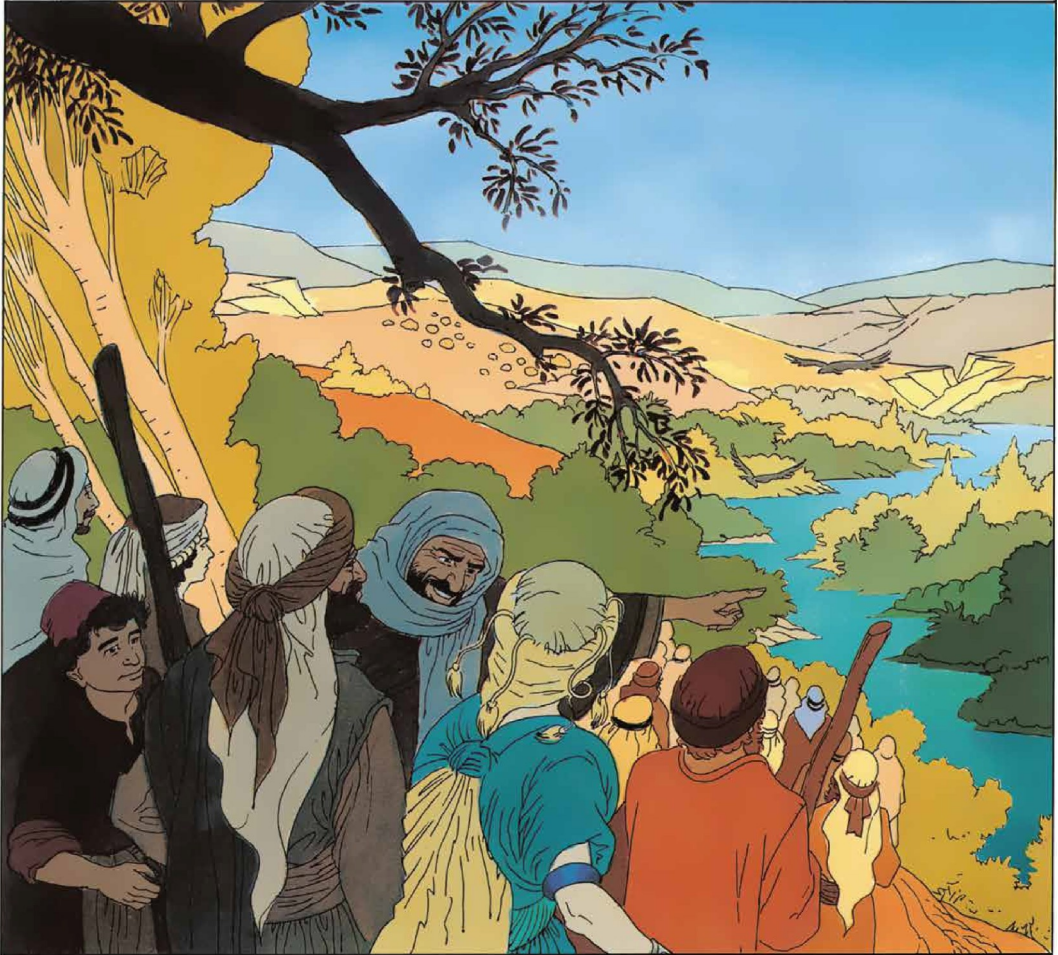


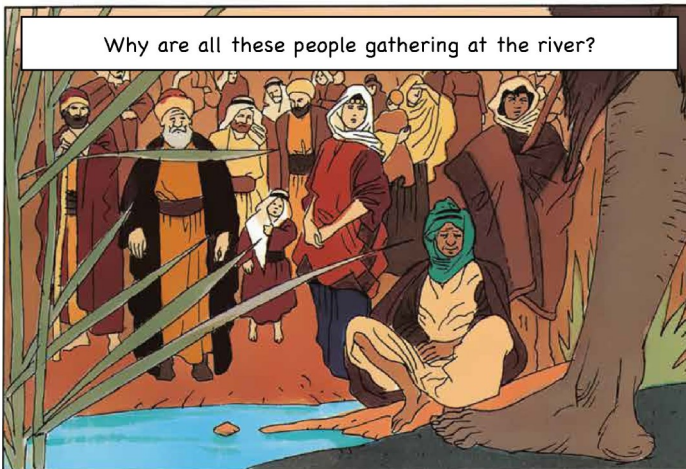


# HERE COMES JESUS!

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 3:1-17

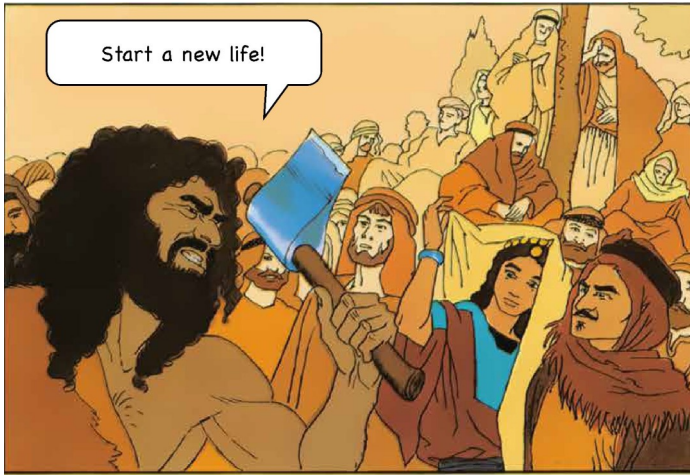


Why are all these people gathering at the river?



Prepare yourselves! God will do something new!

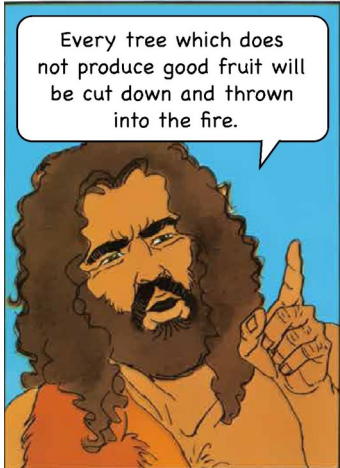




Start a new life!



You can't escape God. His axe of judgment is already at the root of the trees.

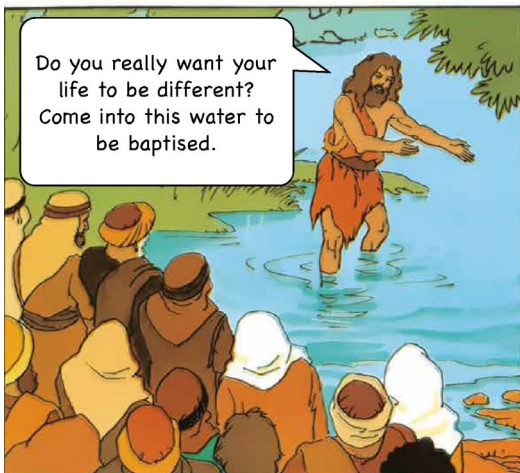


Every tree which does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

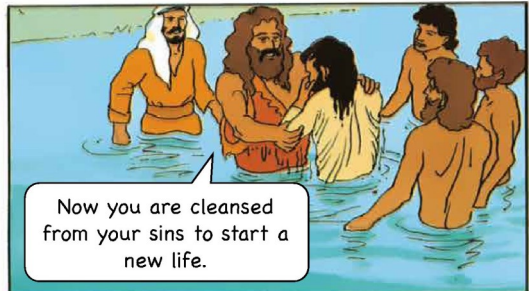
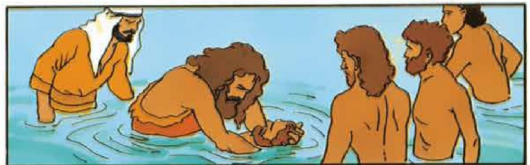


Listen to that. Are we not good enough?

No one can escape God's judgment. But after me, someone is coming who can change you from the inside out. He shall save you.




Do you really want your life to be different? Come into this water to be baptised.



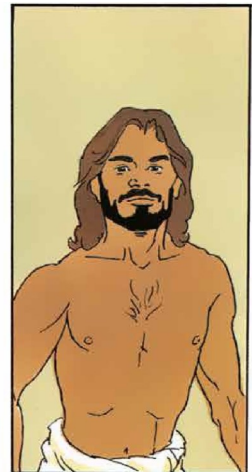
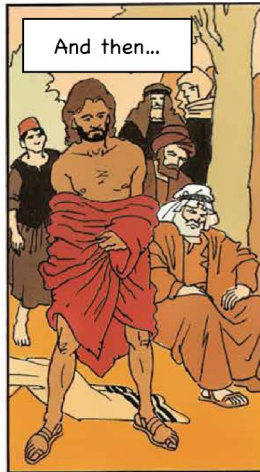
Now you are cleansed from your sins to start a new life.

Everyone calls the preacher at the river John the Baptist...

It's not about me. I'm preparing you for someone else. He will show us what God wants. He will baptize you in the fire of God's Spirit. That will completely change you.



And then...



I should be baptized by you!



Just do it. Then we'll be doing what God wants.

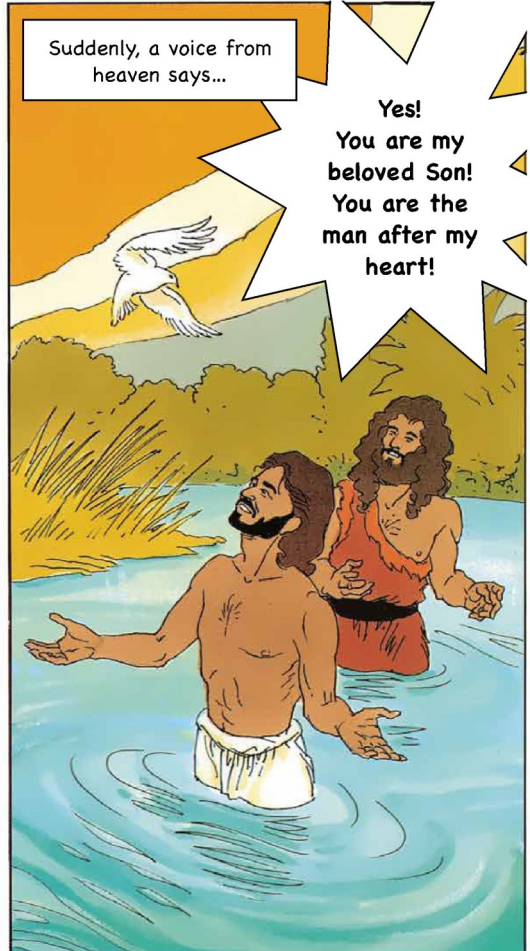


Father, that your kingdom come and your will be done!



Suddenly, a voice from heaven says...

Yes!  
You are my beloved Son!  
You are the man after my heart!







## HERE COMES JESUS!

A prophet in Israel! It has been 450 years since Israel last had a prophet. That is why so many people come to John the Baptist.

What is so special about a prophet? He is a spokesman from God. He speaks in the Name of God, sometimes about good things, but more often He speaks about things that need to be changed. He has to tell the people this, whether they want to listen or not. A prophet is a messenger from God.

Could anyone in Israel just say: "I am a prophet. I speak in God's Name." Not at all. If you said something that did not come true, you were stoned to death. Even so, Israel had many prophets. Moses was a very famous one. And so was Elijah. Some prophets wrote down in books what they heard from God - like David (in the Psalms), Isaiah and Jeremiah.

One thing stands out. All the prophets in the Bible point to the Messiah. He is the Saviour God had promised. He is the man who will come to set things right according to God's will. That's why the people are looking out for this Messiah. The prophets have spoken about Him for more than 1500 years. But still He hasn't come...

Until John the Baptist came. With him a new period of time started. He did not just talk about the Messiah. He also pointed to Him!



## OLD TREASURES

The old books of Israel told about a forerunner. He would prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah wrote about this. It was 750 years before John the Baptist came.

*A voice cries out, "Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and the whole human race will see it. The Lord Himself has promised this."*  
(Isaiah 40:3-5)

## MEMORY VERSE

*"There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*  
(John 1:29)

## WHO IS JESUS?

### Beloved Son

*And a voice from heaven said: "This is My own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."* (Matthew 3:17; 17:5)

Jesus is God's own dear Son. The one in whom God is pleased. Why? Jesus lives close to God. And He does what God says. He lets Himself be baptized in water even though He has never done anything wrong. But He does it because it is God's will and because He loves God.

There is a great love between God the Father and Jesus the Son. That is why heaven opens up for Him. Mark writes in his book that heaven is torn open!

That is how much God wants to tell just how much He loves Jesus: "My own dear Son!"

## GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!

The Lord God had a special plan for the life of John the Baptist. He had planned that a long time ago. That is the reason why that plan had already been written in the old books. God also had a special plan for the Lord Jesus. Never so much had been written about someone in advance as about Jesus.

But do you know that God also has a special plan for your life? The Bible says that He knows every person long before his or her birth. Are you curious to know what God plan is for you? Live close to Him. Then it will become clearer every day what God's special purpose is for you. Exciting, isn't it?

## THE BIBLE

Old Testament  
4000 years of history  
Over 300 prophecies:  
"The Messiah will come!"

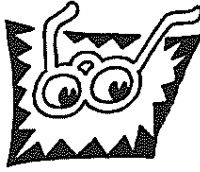
New Testament  
100 years of history  
The prophecies became real:  
"The Messiah did come!"

Malachi also wrote about the forerunner, the messenger of the Messiah:



*"I will send My messenger to prepare the way for Me." (Malachi 3:1)*

Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. There were no more prophets in Israel for 450 years after Malachi. That was not good. It seemed as if God no longer wanted to deal with the land. Someone wrote: "There has never been so much misery in Israel as it was in the time when there were no prophets." (Quoted from the book Maccabeus).



## EXTRA INFORMATION

### The Bible - Book of Promises

The Bible is a special book. God captured His promises in this book. He is saying: "I hold Myself accountable for them." When you put your promises on paper you call that a testament. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

About 4000 years of history is written in the Old Testament. It is the history of God and mankind. It is especially the history of God with the people of Israel.

The stories in the New Testament cover a period of about 100 years. They tell about Jesus the Messiah and why He is important for the whole world. Whoever knows the New Testament will also understand the Old Testament better (and vice versa).

There are many predictions (prophecies) about the Messiah in the Old Testament: more than 300. In the New Testament, this prophecies became reality in the life of Jesus. God's plan and purpose became completely clear through Jesus. His promises are still valid for all who believe in Jesus.



### DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Why John was called "The Baptist"?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Before John the Baptist, how long there was no prophet in Israel?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In whose name does a prophet speak?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. To whom do all the prophets point?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is a testament?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How many prophecies about the Messiah are written in the Old Testament?

- a) More than 10
- b) More than 100
- c) More than 300

7. Who called Jesus "My own dear Son"?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### TIP

In the "Bible reading" you will find a Bible text for every day. Read them and you will discover much more about the things you have learned in this lesson!

### BIBLE READING

Sun	John 1:6
Mon	Matthew 3:1-6
Tue	Matthew 3:7-12
Wed	Matthew 3:13-17
Thu	John 1:1-9
Fri	John 1:10-15
Sat	John 1:16-18



### ACTION POINT!

The name Jesus means "The Lord saves".

Look up the meaning of the following words in a dictionary.

Messiah:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Christ:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_