

Jesus Revealed the Kingdom of God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 12*.

❖ John the Baptist baptized people, allowing them to show sorrow for their sins. That baptism was different from our Sacrament of Baptism today. Jesus was the Son of God. He had never sinned, and he did not need to be baptized before he began his mission. Jesus' baptism was a Revelation of God's will. It showed who Jesus was and that his mission came from God. As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened, and God said that Jesus was his Son and that he was pleased with him.

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❖ After his baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. For 40 days, he fasted and prayed in order to prepare to do his Father's work. Satan tried to turn Jesus away from God's plan. He mocked Jesus' hunger, offered Jesus earthly power, and asked him to prove that he was the Messiah.

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❖ Jesus' miracles showed that he was the Messiah. They showed his power over nature and showed how he could overcome all evil.

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❖ Jesus revealed the Kingdom of God in his preaching. In parables, Jesus used everyday language and examples to help people understand.

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❖ In one parable, Jesus compared God's kingdom to a mustard seed because the mustard seed starts out tiny, but grows into something large. Read this parable in Mark 4:30–32 in the Bible.

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❖ In another parable, Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a pearl. The pearl is of such great price that a merchant sells all he has to buy it. God's kingdom is also so valuable that we could never pay enough to get it. You can read this parable in Matthew 13:45–46.

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