

Week 2.

- Do you easily embrace change?
- Read Matthew 3:13-17
- What is John's response to Jesus' request for baptism?
- Why is he initially so hesitant to do as Jesus asks?

*Jewish Kings were anointed before they could begin to perform their royal duties. Here Jesus receives ritual purification (baptism) and public anointing by the Holy Spirit to be made ready for service.**

- Why was Jesus baptised?
- Jesus' public ministry was about to start. How do you feel about new beginnings?
- Have you ever made a public commitment to do something? What was it and how did you feel about it?
- Jesus surrenders his whole being to God as he is baptised. Read the Prayer opposite slowly, taking time to think about each line together.
- This prayer is traditionally used on the first Sunday of every New Year. How do you feel about this level of commitment?
- Have there been times in the past when you have recommitted yourself to God?
- We all need to 'begin again' with God and with him there is always the opportunity to renew our commitment to him. During this week you might like to review your relationship with God and reflect on any changes that need to be made so as to better fulfil your commitment to him.
- Close in prayer for one another.



New Beginnings : New Ministry

'Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is presented as God's wisdom made manifest & as the royal figure who exercises and promulgates wisdom.'

* [Spiritual Formation NRSV Bible : Hodder & Stoughton : 2005]

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be
ratified in heaven.'



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