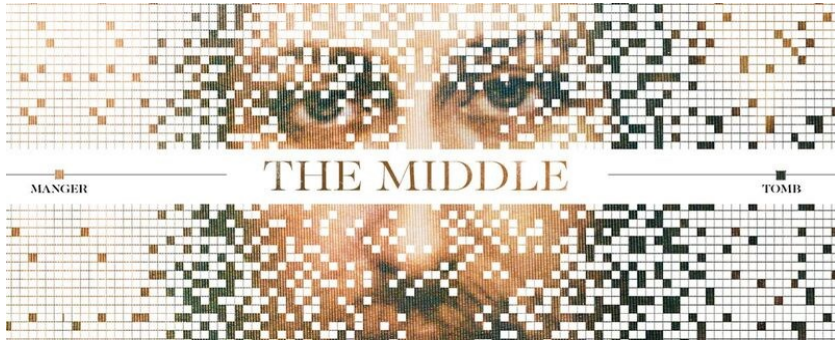


August 6, 2017



The Journey Begins (The Baptism of Jesus)

Matthew 3:13-17 (HCSB)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.¹⁴ But John tried to stop Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?"¹⁵ Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him to be baptized. ¹⁶ After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. ¹⁷ And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him!

1. The Middle shows us that we need to recognize our own unworthiness before Jesus.

2. The Middle shows us that Jesus came to identify with sinners.

Isaiah 53:11-12 (HCSB)

He will see it out of His anguish, and He will be satisfied with His knowledge. My righteous Servant will justify many, and He will carry their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil, because He submitted Himself to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

Galatians 4:6-7 (ESV)

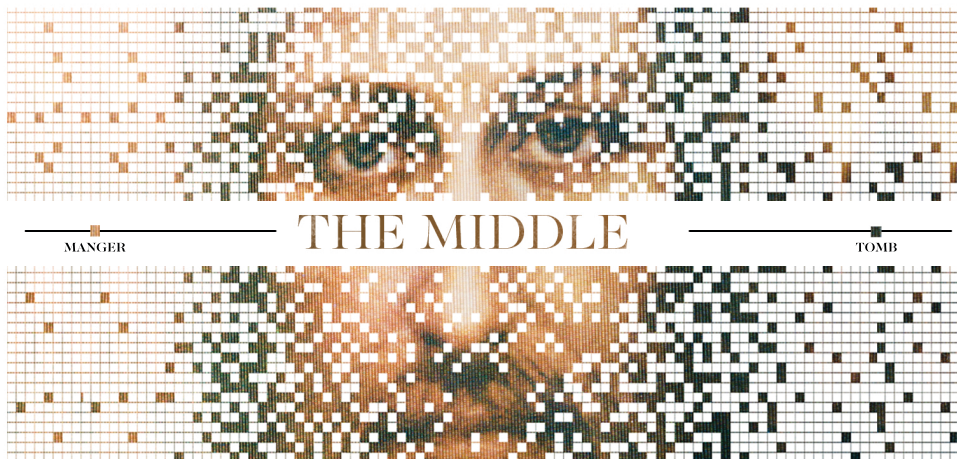
And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son, into our hearts crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

3. The Middle shows us God's pleasure with the Son. (Matthew 3:17)

4. The Middle shows us that baptism isn't just an important part of the Christian life, but an imperative part of the Christian life.

Matthew 3:1-2 (HCSB)

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!"



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

MATTHEW 3:13-17

#NVSTORYSHARE

Gather family or friends and **retell the story of Jesus' baptism** - do as best you can, do not stop and teach, try not to make points (commentary), just tell the story.

Rebuild the Story - chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. Like - "What happened first?", "What happened next?", "Did we leave out anything?" Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

Ask Questions - General questions to ask after each story. These questions may lead to follow up questions that you ask as you dig deeper into the groups/individuals response to the initial questions

- What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?
- What do we learn about man in the story?
- What did you learn new in the story?
- What questions does this raise for you?

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

- Who baptized Jesus?
- What does baptize mean?
- Why was John surprised that that Jesus wanted to be baptized?
- Why did Jesus get baptized when He didn't sin?
- What happened when Jesus came out of the water?
- What did the voice from heaven say?
- Why is it important to please God?
- What's one thing you will do this week to show that you love God?
- What does one have to do to have our Father say He is pleased with us?
- Was God pleased with Jesus because of His behavior or because of His identity?

CHILDRENS

- Older Child #1 - What does this story teach us about people?
- OC2 - How can you please God?
- Younger Child #1 - Why do people get baptized?
- YC2 - How can you make God happy?

STUDENTS

- Share the story of your baptism.
- If you have not been baptized would you like to schedule a time to be baptized?

COLLEGE

- Why did Jesus ask to be baptized?
- How could Jesus' example of being baptized be a call to obedience for us?
- What keeps you from doing something that may benefit others, but be humbling to you?

ADULT

- What does one have to do to have our Father say He is pleased with us?
- Was God pleased with Jesus because of His behavior or because of

