



### MAIN POINT

Words are powerful; they can build us up or tear us down. One of our most important skills is managing what is going on between our ears. Jesus' baptism story reminds us of three important truths: 1) I am a child of God, 2) I am loved by God, 3) I am pleasing to God. When we understand that we are a child of God we have confidence. Just as good earthly parents care greatly for their earthly children, God longs for us to understand the security we have as His children. When we understand that we are loved by God, it frees us to love others. Because our lives are filled up with the love of God, we don't need to strive for the love of others. Finally, God is pleased with us, not because we have earned His approval. Rather, He is pleased that we are resting in His righteousness. This righteousness gives us the ability to rise again, even when we have made a wrong decision. The Bible is God's greatest love letter to us. We must filter our own self-talk through the truth of scripture. When our thoughts don't line up with what scripture says about us, we must shift our thinking.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [Warm Up Question] Share a memory from your childhood, when a parent or teacher spoke positive words over you. How did this impact you?
2. Read Matthew 3:13-17. Why does Jesus want to be baptized? How do we know the presence of God was involved at that moment? What had Jesus done that God would be pleased with him?
3. How does being secure as a child of God give a Christian confidence? How does our position as an heir empower us?
4. What is the difference between living for love and living from love?
5. What was it about King David which made him pleasing to God, even though he made some terrible mistakes in his life?

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Of the three truths: being a child of God, loved by God, and pleasing to God, which one is most difficult for you to embrace and internalize?
2. What is one verse of scripture that speaks God's love to you personally?
3. What words do you need to speak over yourself? How do you need to remind yourself of how God feels about you?