

Family Devotion: Beloved, Before Anything Else

Matthew 3:13–17

Gather

Place a small bowl of water on the table or nearby. Invite everyone to take a deep breath together. Say: “Today we are remembering that God loves us before we do anything at all.”

Read Together

When Jesus was baptized, he went down into the water just like everyone else. When he came back up, the sky opened, the Spirit came close, and God said, “*This is my beloved child.*” God said this before Jesus did anything amazing. God said it first.

Wonder Together

- What do you think the word *beloved* means?
- How do you know when someone loves you?
- What do you think it felt like for Jesus to hear God say that?

Teach

In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we believe baptism is a choice people make when they are ready to say, “I want to follow Jesus.” Some people are baptized, and some are not yet. God loves us before baptism. Baptism is how we say “yes” to God’s love when we are ready.

Water Moment

Invite everyone to dip a finger into the water and say together: “*I am God’s beloved.*” This water reminds us that God is with us while we grow, learn, and ask questions.

Live It This Week

Say together: “When we remember we are loved, we can be kinder and braver.” Invite each person to finish this sentence: “*This week, I want to show love by _____.*”

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for loving us before we make promises and for staying with us as we grow. Help our family remember that we are your beloved children and help us share that love with others. Amen.

Bedtime Blessing

You are loved.

You belong.

God is with you. Always.