

### Chapter 23 – Jesus’ Ministry Begins Day One – This is God’s Son

**Today’s reading:** Page 322 through middle of 325

**This reading covers:** Matthew 3-4; John 1

**Summary:** John the Baptist tells everyone who Jesus is.

**Do together:** Pull out the birth announcements you sent out when your children were born. Let the kids look over the announcements and see the information, and perhaps the picture. Talk about how excited and happy you were to announce their birth.

If your child was adopted, what a wonderful time for you to emphasize the gift they were to you. Adoption is a beautiful picture of what God has done for us. He chose us! Wow!

**Think about:** When it was time for God to tell the world Jesus had come to take away their sins, he used John to bring the message. How excited John must have been to give the special news to the people. Jesus came to give everyone a chance to go to heaven. He came to die so the people’s sins could be forgiven once and for all.

**Also read:** Luke 19:5-10

**Prayer:** Father, Thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, to die for us. Thank you that you knew we needed him, because we cannot save ourselves. Help us to tell our friends the good news about Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Chapter 23 – Jesus’ Ministry Begins Day Two – Jesus the Healer

**Today’s reading:** Middle of page 329 through middle of page 333

**This reading covers:** Matthew 4; Mark 1-3

**Summary:** Jesus cared about people.

**Do together:** Think of someone who could use some encouragement from your family. Have the children make cards of greeting, support, good wishes, or some expression of encouragement that is appropriate. As they draw pictures and think of something to say inside the card, you can discuss the Bible story.

(Do not put the cards in an envelope or distribute them to the recipients. We’ll do that tomorrow.)

**Think about:** Jesus cared so much about people that he did everything he could to help them. He sometimes made them well if they were sick. But always, always he loved them. Since we are just people, and not God, we cannot make others well. But we can show them God’s love and pray for them.

**Also read:** 1 John 4:11-12

**Prayer:** Father today we pray for our friends. Please help them to feel your love today. Help the cards we are making to remind them of your love. Be close to them today, God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Chapter 23 – Jesus’ Ministry Begins Day Three – Jesus’ Helpers

**Today’s reading:** Page 332 through middle of page 333

**This reading covers:** Mark 3

**Summary:** Jesus had some special followers who would share his message.

**Do together:** Address the envelopes for the homemade cards from yesterday. Have the children do what is age-appropriate. Maybe they can address the envelopes themselves. Maybe all they can do is affix the stamp.

**Think about:** When the cards are ready to mail, or before you actually walk to the neighbor’s house to deliver them, talk about how important it is to share God’s love and the message of Jesus. We are God’s special helpers to do the jobs he has for us. Telling others about him and doing things to show his love are the most important jobs we will ever have.

**Also read:** Matthew 25:34-40

**Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for our friend again today. We ask that you would help us to be your special helpers to show others your love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.