

MESSAGE OUTLINE CHILD OF GOD: LOVED

Mark 1:4–12 (NIV)

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness...

Being loved by God...

1. **Forms our** _____.
This is my Son...

God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child.
Galatians 4:6–7 (NIV)

2. **Deepens our** _____.
...whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

In love [God] predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will... the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us... **Ephesians 1:4-12** (selected)

3. **Empowers our** _____.
At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness...

In [Jesus] we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. **Ephesians 1:4-12** (selected)

I know now that the words spoken to Jesus when he was baptized are words spoken also to me and to all who are brothers and sisters of Jesus. My tendencies toward self-rejection and self-deprecation make it hard to hear these words truly and let them descend into the center of my heart. But once I have received these words fully, I am set free from my compulsion to prove myself to the world and can live in it without belonging to it. Once I have accepted the truth that I am God's beloved child, unconditionally loved, I can be sent into the world to speak and to act as Jesus did.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *You Are The Beloved*

Childlike qualities of followers of Jesus

- **Faith** (John 1:1-18 *those who believed in his name...*)
- **Loved** (Mark 1:4-11 *this is my son whom I love...*)
- **Curiosity** (John 1:43-51 *come and see...*)
- **Trust** (Mark 1:14-20 *follow me...*)
- **Wonder** (Mark 1:21-28 *the people were all so amazed...*)
- **Adventure** (Mark 1:29-39 *everyone is looking for you...*)
- **Excitement** (Mark 9:2-9 *It's good for us to be here...*)

NOTES: