

Chapter 3 **The Messiah**

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. *Matthew 16:16*

To the Parents:

In chapter 3, your child learned the following:

- Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises.
- God anointed the Messiah with God's own Spirit.
- God's reign, or kingdom, is one of justice and peace.
- Christians anointed by Baptism participate in Jesus' mission.

The Hebrew people believed that God would send a Messiah to save them from their enemies. They waited impatiently, but with hope. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the coming of Jesus brought them the realization that the Messiah would do more than battle enemies. Jesus, as the Holy One of God, revealed how salvation comes to those who live out his message of repentance, justice, peace, and love.

Jesus is God's answer to the need of all people for salvation. Through Jesus, the Messiah, God came into the world to be with those who suffer. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, believers learn that suffering and death is not the end. The followers of Jesus wait in joyful hope for eternal life, knowing that the reign of God begins today in the grace-filled lives of those who seek justice and peace.

With Your Child:

1. Read the story of Jesus' baptism by John in the Bible (*Matthew 3:13–17*) and then talk about what this revealed about Jesus.
2. Identify people in your family or neighborhood who seek justice and peace not through violence and force, but through compassion.
3. Together read about Saint John the Baptist on the Review and Explore page.