

Introduction:

If we have begun a relationship with Jesus, we should be striving to let the Good News of Easter affect every aspect of our lives. Once we meet Jesus, we can't help but let that relationship influence us and, through us, the people we interact with. As we grow closer to Jesus, we will become more like him: following and imitating his every move.

Scripture:

Ephesians 5:1 — "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children."

Matthew 3:16-17 — "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'"

Discussion Questions:

1. Growing up, what heroes did you imitate? How did that work out for you?
2. What does it mean to you to "imitate God?"
3. In Matthew 3, why do you think Jesus insisted that John the Baptist baptize him?
4. When do you most feel like you are imitating God?
 - When do you feel like it is the hardest to imitate God?
5. When Jesus is baptized, the glory of that moment is directed towards God, his father. How can we, even in moments of triumph, conduct ourselves in such a way that we make sure God receives the glory for our accomplishments?

Take the Next Step:

There are times when it is easy to imitate God, & there are times when it seems impossible to do so. When we make it too easy, imitating God can quickly become mentally checking boxes on a list; acting 'this way' & not 'that way.' When we make imitating God too difficult, we give up. Where is the middle ground for you this week? What is one way you can be an imitator of God no matter where you find yourself?