

Jesus Is the Answer to a Promise

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 2**.

The Jewish people waited many years for the promised Messiah. *Messiah* is a title that means "anointed one."

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A prophet is called to speak for God. God chose John the Baptist to be a prophet and the precursor, or immediate forerunner, sent to prepare the way for the Messiah.

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Baptism frees us from Original Sin, the consequence of Adam and Eve's disobedience when human beings lost God's blessing. We receive new life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

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Baptism includes the sign of water, a reminder of both death and life. The priest or deacon says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

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Followers of John the Baptist accepted baptism as a sign of their acceptance of John's message to repent for sins.

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Jesus began his public life when John the Baptist baptized him. Although Jesus was sinless, his example showed us the need to be obedient to God's will and to reconcile ourselves with the Father.

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God's Covenant was a solemn agreement between him and his people. God was faithful to his promise, a promise fulfilled in Jesus.

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The official list of the 73 books that make up the Old and New Testaments of the Bible is called the canon. The Church venerates both testaments as inspired by God.

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Knowing the Old Testament helps us understand fully the New Testament. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament tell God's great plan for the human family.

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For Christians the most important books of the New Testament are the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels reveal Jesus as the Son of God. The Acts of the Apostles and other letters and books are included in the New Testament.

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The books of the New Testament tell the story of Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension and the experience of the early Christians.

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