Luke 3 “We Belong to God

[Narrator] Do you remember our story last month about when John the Baptist's mother Elizabeth and her cousin Mary told each other the good news about their having babies? Do you remember how they each thought that their babies would grow up to be people that would make the world a better place? Well, our story today takes place several years later. Our story involves the babies who have grown up to be John the Baptist and Jesus. They are starting to do the work that God gave them to do. Our story takes place in the wilderness by a river that was very important to God's people, the Jordan river. In our story, John and Jesus come together to show us how knowing that we belong to God changed their lives and can change our lives.

In our story are John the Baptist, a soldier, a tax collector, and of course Jesus. Let's say hello to them.

[Scene] John, tax collector, soldier and Jesus come on. Jesus goes off by himself to pray, other three are talking with each other.

[Narrator] Our story begins as the people that John has baptized come out of the Jordan river.

[Soldier] Thank you Mr. John. I now understand that I belong to God, and I know that God would want me to be a soldier who protects and helps people. I won't just beat people up any more so that I can take from them. From now on, I'll be a soldier who will live on what I get paid.

[Tax collector] I think that belonging to God means that I won't cheat people any more. I'll only collect what the law says that we are entitled to.

[John] I think you are both doing the right thing. We all belong to God, and we need to show that in our actions as well as our words.

[Scene] John looks over at Jesus. Leaves tax collector and soldier and goes to Jesus.

[John] Cousin Jesus, are you all right? I know that this may sound strange but I thought that I just saw a dove come down and land on your shoulder for a second.

[Scene] Jesus looks up.

[Jesus] Oh, I'm fine, maybe even better than fine. I guess I can tell you… I just heard God tell me that God is pleased with me. I have always known that I belong to God, but now I know what that means for me.

[John] What do you think that is, Cousin Jesus?

 [Jesus] God wants me to show people that we all belong to God. I want to show and tell people how much we are all loved, and that because God loves us, we can live together in really new and exciting ways. I've felt this for a long time, but your baptism has helped me get started. Thank you, Cousin John.

[John] I think that you are the one that I've been telling people to prepare for.

 [Narrator] John was right. Jesus was the one that God had sent. He is also right in that we all belong to God. We all can show that in our own way. We show it through kindness to others and working at being people who know that we all belong to God. Belonging to God and knowing how much we are loved can help us be the loving and caring people that God made us all to be.