



Jesus's Example in Baptism

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Traffic Signs sheet (print one copy and cut out each sign in advance)
- Comparison Activity Sheet (one copy to hold up)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs*
(*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- 3-4 blank sheets of paper and crayons for each child

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons*
(*Found in the introduction section.*)

*These items will be needed every week.

LEADER'S Review

Christians who believe the Bible and agree on all the truths taught in the Apostles' Creed don't always agree on every detail about baptism. What Christians do agree on is this: baptism does not wash away our sins. Baptism is a visible sign of an invisible reality—an outward sign of an inward grace. The Bible says God saves us “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). We are all born spiritually dead. Only the Holy Spirit can make us spiritually alive. When He makes us alive, He gives us faith in Christ and the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is an outward picture of what happens inside. Sometimes in Scripture, it sounds as if baptism washes away the sin. When Paul was converted, Ananias said to him, “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). That is because baptism is such a clear picture of what God does in our hearts.

We know in the Old Testament the sign placed on God's people was circumcision. Circumcision is difficult to explain to young children. All they need to know for now is that it was a sign that Israel belonged to God and, that in the New Testament, it has been replaced with baptism. No more bloodshed is needed, because Jesus shed His blood on the cross to wash away our sins. Baptism is a sign of God's new covenant with His people.





(Confession of Faith—Continued)

138. Q: What does the bread represent?

A: Christ's body sacrificed for our sins

139. Q: What does the wine represent?

A: Christ's blood shed for our sins

140. Q: Who may rightly partake of the Lord's Supper?

A: Those who repent of their sins, trust in Christ, live a godly life, and profess their faith before the Church

Reading of the Word

Read scripture. (1-2 minutes)

John 1:29–30, 35–37

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'"

³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

Matthew 3:13–17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Prayer

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord who keeps His promises. (1 minute)

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness as seen throughout Scripture. Thank You for keeping Your covenant to send the Messiah. Thank You for the sign and seal of baptism given to Your people in the New Testament. Please give us hearts to love and follow Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-7 minutes)

We have been talking about the Sacraments, which are defined as "visible, holy signs and seals." For the past two lessons, we talked about the Lord's Supper. What are some of the

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

things that you remember about this sacrament? (*Perhaps show the comparison sheet from last week.*)

Review Questions

- What were some of the signs and symbols of the Passover? *The blood on the doorframe, the lamb, the unleavened bread, the wine, the bitter herbs, the haroset, the eggs*
- Which of those are used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper? *The bread and wine*
- What does the bread represent? The wine? *The bread represents the body of Christ that was killed ("broken") on the cross. The wine represents the blood of Christ which was spilled out to cover our sins.*
- What are we called to remember at the Lord's Supper? What do we look forward to in hope? *We are to remember Jesus's sacrifice for us and His delivering us from sin and making us His people. We look forward to the day when all followers of Christ will feast together with Him in heaven and live with Him forever.*

Today we will talk about the second sacrament, baptism. We will start by looking at the man who was speaking in this month's memory verse. Many people over the centuries have called him "John the Baptist." While Jesus was growing up in Nazareth as a carpenter alongside His earthly father Joseph, His cousin John lived in the wilderness. John wanted to be away from people so that he would have time to think about and talk to God. God took care of John, for God had a great work for him to do. John was to preach to the Jewish people to prepare them to learn from Jesus's teaching that would come. The Bible says John was to "prepare the way of the Lord." John had a rough life in the desert, eating locusts and honey and wearing clothes made from camels' hair.

When it was time, John entered Judea and began to preach. People thought he was very strange at first, but then they began to listen to him. Great crowds came out to hear what he was telling the people: "Turn away from your sins and be baptized." Many whose lives had been full of sin listened to John and repented of their sin. John then baptized them in the Jordan River. People began to ask, "Is this the long-expected Savior?" Messengers were sent to ask him, "Who are you? Are you the Christ, the anointed one that God has sent to be our Savior?"

"No," John said. "I am not the Christ. I am just a voice in the wilderness crying, 'Prepare the way of the Lord.' There is One who will come after me who is mightier than I. I'm not worthy to tie His shoes."

One day, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and John said, **"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** Jesus had come to John to be baptized. John refused at first, because he knew very well that Jesus did not need to repent of sin. Jesus was sinless! But Jesus told John to baptize Him, because not only was Jesus to live a perfect life without sin, He was also to live a perfect life of obeying God. Baptism was a way to obey His heavenly Father.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

After John baptized Jesus, the heavens opened up, and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove to rest on Jesus. At the same moment, God the Father's voice came out of heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all present at that moment for the people to hear and see.

Today when children or adults are baptized, the pastor pronounces, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." He says this as a reminder that God the Father has planned and promised our rescue from sin, Jesus the Son has paid the price for our sin, and God the Holy Spirit works in our hearts so we might believe.

When John the Baptist saw how surprised all the onlookers were to hear God's voice and see the Holy Spirit rest on Jesus, John said again, "See! This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. This is the person I told you about when I said, 'After me there comes Someone who is greater than I am.' I did not know who it would be, but God gave me a sign: 'I will send My Spirit upon Him in the form of a dove, and the Holy Spirit will remain with Him. That is the one who is My Son.' Now I have seen this, and I have told you that this Jesus is the Son of God." The day that Jesus was baptized was a truly amazing day!

If you were baptized as an infant, that was also an amazing day. Your parents brought you by faith to be baptized, believing God's promise of His covenant: that the sign of His promises is for those who believe and for their children, too. At baptism, the sign of water was placed on you, and all the church vowed that we would look forward to the day when the Holy Spirit would give you faith to believe in Jesus and would wash your heart and cleanse you from all your sin. Jesus did not need to be cleansed from any sin, but He was baptized as a way of being our Elder Brother and going before us in obeying God. Then, He commanded His disciples to go and tell others about Him and baptize them, too, so that all His people would see the outward sign of the inward work of His Spirit.

What are some signs you see every day? ***(Pull out the pictures of the traffic signs, put them face down, and have the children each pick one up and see if they know what the sign means.)*** Do you have to be able to read to understand these signs? Why? *(No, they are pictures that all can understand.)*

Where do we see the sign of baptism? *(In worship)* What does baptism mean to every believer, no matter what language they may speak? *(Baptism is a sign that we may be united to Christ and cleansed from our sin. It's a sign that we belong to the covenant family of God and all His promises are available to us.)* Does baptism save us? *(No, we are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus and by the Holy Spirit's work in our heart, enabling us to have faith in Him. Baptism is a visible sign of this invisible work.)*

ACTIVITY: Ask the children to think of other signs. Have them create and draw pictures of signs that may be helpful in their own home or neighborhood; for example, signs to keep younger siblings out of their room, signs that show where the snacks are stored in the kitchen, signs that tell people what sort of activity they are doing, etc. Let them brainstorm, draw, and color their signs and then explain them to the rest of the class.



Benediction

Sing the Doxology. (1 minute)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Traffic Signs



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