



Topic: Water Baptism

LESSON PLAN

Purpose:

Water baptism is a fulfillment of righteousness in the life of Jesus. Serious Believers will want to do as Jesus did to become as He is.

Bible Lesson and Text:

Matthew 3:13-17 and Acts 8:26-39

Focus:

When we become a Christian our sins are washed away, but it takes a commitment of the heart to be changed and become more like Christ.

Scripture:

Galatians 3:26-27, "For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (KJV)

Lie Buster:

I am a **Radical, On Fire, Committed Kid**. I am a "ROCK" in Jesus.

Lesson:

- Start with Mark 16:16a, "He who believed and is baptized will be saved..." (NKJV)
- Have a helper fall back into the teacher's arms. He/she trust their life to him/her that he/she will catch them. We trust our life to Christ. Continue to explain baptism as a fulfillment of our Christianity and putting on Christ. We are willing to submit to change to become more like Jesus.



Topic: Water Baptism

Object Lesson 1: Pickles Anyone?

Teaching Point:

We are changed in baptism.

Props:

Cucumber, jar of pickles, water, vinegar

Directions:

1. Show the cucumber and talk about how this cucumber could only grow up if it stayed on the vine. We are connected to the branch, Jesus.
2. Now the cucumber wants to complete it's purpose to become full and complete; it wants to be "pickled."
3. Explain how a cucumber becomes a pickle. The process of first being washed (representing salvation). Then the next step is being put in the vinegar solution (representing baptism). In order for the cucumber to become a pickle it has to go through a pickling process, which will forever change it.

Teaching Points:

Vinegar makes a permanent change. It also preserves. A pickle can never go back to being a cucumber--it will now always be a pickle. It will have a new taste and color. The vinegar flavor is a part of the pickle and they can't be separated. It's character is altered to a pickle. Just as in baptism we are still a boy or girl, but we have made a decision to allow the fulfillment of the Word of God to be made complete in us. We are choosing by faith to go under the water and have the old self buried so the new character of Christ and His resurrected life can clothe us.



Topic: Water Baptism

Object Lesson 2 (part 1 of 2): Still a Baby

Teaching Point:

Jesus wants us to grow up. We want to grow up too! Babies don't get to do very much.

Props:

Small baby clothes and baby items (like a bottle, tiny spoon, diaper).

Directions:

1. Ask a child or the helper to dress like a baby who doesn't want to grow up. This is based on 1 Corinthians 13:11 (I put away childish things).
2. Ask, Would you want your mom to still give you a bath, brush your teeth, feed you, dress you etc.? Why?
3. What are ways that we as Christians can grow up? Allow the class to answer. For younger children, show pictures of older children serving, working at home, doing homework, praying, reading etc.
4. Growing up means: preferring our brother/sister, giving things that are dear to us, taking turns, practicing the thing we want to master (musical instrument, singing, spelling words, math), reading our Bible, memorizing verses, obeying our parents right away, etc.



Topic: Water Baptism

Object Lesson 2 (part 2 of 2): New Responsibilities Means New Authority and New Anointing

Teaching Point:

We want to be an “all wet Christian.” This is someone who stands out and doesn't just blend in with the crowd. When we chose to grow up and go on with Christ; we get NEW EQUIPPING: a “CHANGE OF CLOTHING”. Everyone can see a growth physically and that applies in spiritual things.

Props:

Baby clothing, a set of grown up clothing

Directions:

1. When we choose to demonstrate our commitment to be an “all wet Christian”, one that stands out, we receive a new grace to grow. The water that makes us wet is like the grace upon our life to be Christlike; it is Holy Spirit empowerment.
2. Have a child volunteer who is too big to wear the baby clothes. The baby clothes don't fit him/her anymore! He wants to grow up. Have the child put on the adult clothing. When we want to grow up sometimes we put on our parent's clothing and act like them and talk like them. Putting on Christ is putting on His character, position, purpose.



Topic: Water Baptism

TEACHER STUDY NOTES

1. BAPTISM IS A COMMAND OF THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18-20, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (NIV)

2. BAPTISM IS NOT A MEANS OF SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast." (NIV)

Ephesians 2:4-5, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..." (NKJV)

3. BAPTISM IS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

Acts 10:47-48, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days." (NIV)

Acts 18:8 "Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." (NIV)

4. BAPTISM IS GOING PUBLIC WITHOUT SHAME OR FEAR

Acts 2:41, "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." (NKJV)

Acts 9:18, "Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized." (NKJV)



Topic: Water Baptism

Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (KJV)

5. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

Matthew 3:13-17, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (NIV)

6. BAPTISM IS A STEP OF OBEDIENCE IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

Acts 8:26-40: The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to obey the scriptures as Phillip shared God's Word with him.

7. BAPTISM SHOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OLD NATURE

Romans 6:3-11, "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

Romans 6:4, "Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died; and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy." (TLB)



Topic: Water Baptism

Galatians 3:26-27 "For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (KJV)

8. BAPTISM IS SYMBOLIC OF THE RESURRECTION LIFE

1 Peter 3:18-22, "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him." (NIV)

II Kings 5:14, "So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." (NKJV)

NOTE:

The word *baptize* has several meanings including: to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge like a submarine. The definitions also include: to cleanse by dipping or to make clean with water.



Topic: Water Baptism

TEACHER AND PARENT HELPS FOR WATER BAPTISM

Do we baptize children?

We water baptize children who want to be baptized only for the right reason.

When the Word is heard, faith arises in a child for more of what Jesus has made available for them. When we have taught on baptism we have made it a lesson that spans several classes. This gives the seed of the Word that has been taught time to take root and grow. It has also shown helpful to show video of others being baptized. This helps to prepare children even more.

Why is a child being baptized?

When a child says they want to be baptized, we then ask them why? Their answer will let you know if they have an understanding and right motives. Children who are ready will show a sincerity, a determination, and excitement for being baptized.

It is important to tell the children that a Christian is like an open book to those who are around them everyday. We are as "living letters known and read by all men." (2 Corinthians 3:2-3) Baptism in water is our public confession. God holds each of us accountable for what we know. When we "go public" with an outward action of our commitment to Jesus, we are entering into a new level of our walk and expression of Christianity. Remember what happened after Jesus was baptized? He was honored by His Father as the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. It was like God was saying, "That's My Boy! He gives Me such pleasure." Then Jesus had a wilderness time of temptation and testing which He passed with an A+. Jesus was obedient to His Father in all things, even baptism.

We may be tempted and tested in our school, our family, with our friends. Are we still going to stand strong in our faith? Are we willing to not hide our love for Jesus when we are around people who don't love Him too? Yes! We will be radical and passionate for all of God's Kingdom.



Topic: Water Baptism

Baptism can be like a declaration for us in much the same way it was for Jesus. He was coming out of His behind the scenes life and coming into the fulfillment of His ministry and destiny.

Timing

Typically, when our church has a baptism service scheduled, that is our prime time to teach on baptism. We teach and explain water baptism in advance to bring understanding. When those children who desire to be baptized with the right heart, they are included with the adults in our baptism service.

When a child is asked their reason for wanting to be baptized, answers should NOT include:

1. Because their brother or sister is getting baptized.
2. Because their friend is getting baptized.
3. Because their teacher wants them to.
4. Because they want to make their pastor/teacher/parent happy.
5. Because most of the class is getting baptized and they don't want to be left out.
6. Because they fear that they will not go to heaven.

If these responses are the case, more teaching should be done on the symbolism and heart of water baptism until each child has a good understanding.

We also let parents know that their children are being taught on baptism. Children are to go home and talk to parents about baptism and let them know if they have a desire to follow Jesus and obey the commandment to be baptized. We ask the kids to tell their parents their personal reason for wanting to be baptized.



Topic: Water Baptism

WATER BAPTISM WORKSHEET

NAME: _____

1. What must we be before we can be baptized according to the New Testament? (Circle the correct answer)
 - a. A good person
 - b. A church goer
 - c. A sinner
 - d. A born again Christian (believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.)
2. How old must you be before you can be baptized?
 - a. 10
 - b. 5
 - c. Any age where you understand and can make a decision that you want to be baptized.
 - d. Only if your parents have been baptized.
3. What does the word baptize mean? (Circle the correct answer)
 - a. To drown
 - b. To dip or put under water to make clean
 - c. To swim in a pool
 - d. To become a new Christian
4. Galatians 3:26-27, "For you are all the children of God by _____ in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have _____ Christ.
5. Explain what being baptized in water means to you.



LIONHEART
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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