

Get Ready!

I Must Be Baptized

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Text

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 16:14-16; Acts 2:37-41; 8:26-40

Key Quest Verse

“He that believes and is baptized will be saved” Mark 16:16a

Bible Background

In the Old Testament, water was ceremonially used for rites of purification. The priests were required to cleanse themselves before performing their duties. Skin diseases and other physical ailments were followed by acts of purification as well. The practice of baptism was introduced in the New Testament. The Greek word means “to immerse” or “cleanse with water.” Although similar to various Jewish purification rites, Christian baptism involved the attainment of eternal salvation (Mark 16:15). In time, baptism became a formal rite of initiation into the Christian community: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. . .all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27-28).

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: Baptism by immersion is the correct form of baptism

Feel: The need to be baptized when they are old enough

Do: To be joyful when they witness a baptism

Leader's Devotion

“While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die” (Romans 5:6,7). Would I? I ask myself—one who even prays when I have my teeth cleaned at the dentist! What if God said that we could be made righteous by going to our church, being nailed to a cross, and hanging there until we die? But our loving merciful God set up a simple plan—believe, repent, and accept His Son’s payment by being buried in the water of baptism, to arise and walk in newness of life, covered by Jesus’ righteousness. Let’s keep seeking Him and His ways.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: None

Let's pretend that the President of the United States is coming to your school tomorrow. What changes would you see at your school?

Today, when an important leader of our country or a super star is coming to a city to visit, their helpers go ahead of them and make certain that they have a good place to stay. They arrange for their meals. They plan police protection and security. They advertise to let people know that they are coming.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: A glass of water

I want you to take a good look at what is in this glass. It is simply water. In great amounts it can be very powerful! In what ways? (floods, move things, help crops grow) Even the absence of it can be powerful! (droughts, need it for our survival). We are going to talk about another way that water is powerful.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

John the Baptist did not have a place for Jesus to stay, or food to eat, but he did have to advertise His coming. For many years, God’s people had been living in sin. Though they kept looking for the One God had promised to send, they did not live like God wanted them to. When John grew up, God spoke to him, and said, “John, go preach to my people. Tell them to turn away from sin. Tell them that Jesus is coming.”

For years before God spoke to John, John had been living in the wilderness, out among the trees and rocks, where no one else lived. His clothes were made from the skin of animals. He was a strange looking man, and as he walked along people gathered around to see who he was and what he wanted. As they gathered around he would begin to preach. He was not a soft-spoken man. He had a big voice, and as he preached he would shout, “Repent! Be sorry that you have sinned. Pray for God to forgive you. Promise to serve God. Be baptized.” When John would finish preaching there would often be some who would believe his words. They would ask God to forgive their sins. Then John would take them down to the river and baptize them.

One day, as John stood by the Jordan River preaching to the people, someone stepped from the crowd, and said, “John, I want to be baptized.” At once John recognized this man. It was Jesus. Though the people did not know that Jesus was the One God had sent, John knew it. He knew that Jesus was God’s Son, and that He had never done anything bad! He said to Jesus, “I cannot baptize You. You don’t need to be baptized. Instead, You should baptize me.” But Jesus replied, “John, I must show the people what I expect them to do. I must be their example.” John took Jesus out to the river and as the people watched, he baptized Him. As Jesus came up out of the water a bright light shone from the sky and God’s voice spoke. God said, “This is My Son, in whom I am very proud.”

So it was Jesus who showed the people then, and us today, how important it is to be baptized.

Get Set!



Bible Story continued

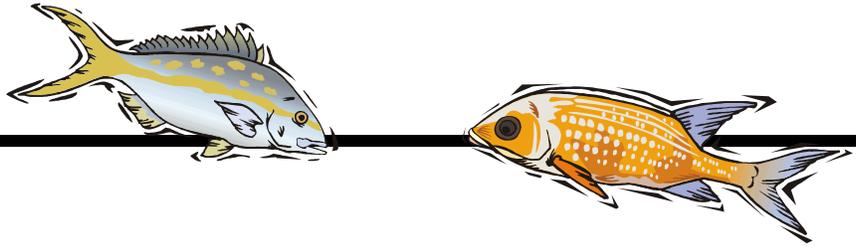
Jesus died for our sins, but this does not mean that everyone will be forgiven of the bad things he has done. (Write the word “BE” three times on a chalkboard or white board and fill in the words as you continue)

First of all, we must BELIEVE that Jesus is God’s Son and that He died for us.

Second, we must BE SORRY for all the wrong things we have done, and we must tell God.

Third we must BE BAPTIZED for the forgiveness of our sins. Remember that just being dipped in the water is not enough. We must also believe and be sorry.

The more you study the Bible the easier it all becomes to understand. One day you will want to make the decision to be baptized. At that time, God will wash away your sins and will help you live for Him.

Go!**Deep Sea Fishing**

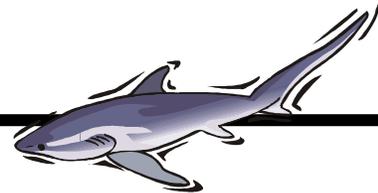
GAME

Materials: Three Teacher Resource Pages “Deep Sea Fishing”, thirty pennies**Quest Connection**

We are going to play a game to see how much you know about one of the most important subjects “baptism”. Some of the questions we talked about in our lesson today and some maybe you have learned from other lessons in the Bible.

Procedure: Ahead of class, place a penny on top of all the fish on the Teacher Resource Page number one. Divide the students into two teams. Ask them a question. If they get it correct they get to remove one penny from the board . They get the number of points that fish represents. Continue playing until all the questions have been asked.

Teacher’s Tip: The Resource Page “Number One” could be copied on a transparency and used on an overhead projector.

Close

This game has been fun. I hope that it has taught you more about baptism. It is my prayer that someday you will all make the decision to be baptized!



Go!**Baptismal Certificate****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Heavy weight paper, markers, pens

*If a computer is available, students could design the certificate on it.

**Quest Connection**

Whenever a very important event happens a symbol or some sort of documentation is given to that person. When a baby is born what are the parents given? (a birth certificate) What symbols are exchanged when someone gets married? (rings, marriage certificate) Graduation from a school? (diploma) When someone is baptized, they are given a certificate. We are going to design a baptismal certificate. What all would you include on it? What would be a good verse from the Bible to include on it?

Procedure: Using the materials listed above, have students design a baptismal certificate or card that would be appropriate if someone were recently baptized. Have them leave the names blank.

These could be displayed on a bulletin board with the Key Quest Verse written in large letters.

Close

When you make the decision to be baptized, it will be the most important thing that you do in your life. Why do you think that is? (It is a decision that will effect your eternal life!)

Go!

What Was It Like?**GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask someone to your class who would be willing to tell the students about their own baptism. Be sure to remind the visitor to use words that preschoolers will understand.

Quest Connection

I have invited _____ to come to our class today and tell us about when they were baptized.

Procedure: Encourage the visitor to explain:

1. Why they wanted to be baptized?
2. What it was like?
3. How did they feel afterward?
4. How do they feel about it now?

Optional: If you have a video of someone being baptized, show this to the class. While they are watching, explain what is happening. Allow them to ask questions. Pause or repeat the action if the students want to see it again.

Close

Ask your guest to lead the class in prayer.

Go!**Hydro Bracelets**

ARTS AND CRAFTS (Note: the boys in my class enjoyed this craft too. They especially liked the black and blue beads!)

Materials: Two feet of clear plastic tubing with a ¼ inch inner diameter, 3 inches of clear plastic tubing with a 3/8 inch inner diameter (sold in most hardware stores), ruler and scissors, tiny beads or glitter and water

Quest Connection

Who knows what hydro means? (water) We have been discussing the need to be baptized. In order to be baptized, we need to be immersed under water. After someone is baptized, their sins are washed away. It's like starting their life over. It is a celebration. We are going to make something today to help us to remember about baptism.

Procedure:

To make each bracelet, cut an 8 inch long piece from the 1/4 inch tubing and a 1 inch length from the 3/8 inch tubing (for a fastener). Slide both ends of the 8 inch tube into the fastener, as shown, and have your students try on the bracelet for fit. If it's too big, take it apart and trim it to size, remembering that it will need to slip over their hand.

Remove one end of the bracelet from the fastener. Use a finger to stop one end while you drop in tiny beads or pieces of glitter - or anything that fits in the tube and can be submerged in water.

When they are done, slowly fill the tube with water, leaving several inches of air so it has room to move. Carefully slide the free end into the fastener as far as it will go. This should create a snug fit that won't come undone without a good tug.

Close

Every time you wear this bracelet I want you to think about our memory verse. Who can recite it?

Go!**Communion****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Cups and plates used for a Communion Service, Teacher Resource “Communion” (Optional: You could have someone who is usually involved in the service to come into your classroom to explain the service.)

Quest Connection

The purpose of this activity is to answer simple questions that your students might have about the Communion Service. Remind them often that only the people that have been baptized are the ones to take Communion.

Procedure: Show the students the cup and plate. Ask them the questions and provide the answers from the Resource Page.

Close

Someday when you are older, I hope that you will make the decision to be baptized. You will then be able to take part in the Communion Service.

Go!**Church Baptistery****FIELD TRIP**

Materials: Access to the place where baptisms are held such as a baptistery or creek

Quest Connection

We are going to a special place in our church today. It may be a place that many of you have never seen before. We are going to go see where people who are much older than you are baptized.

Procedure: Take the children to the church baptistery or wherever baptisms are held for your church. Explain how it is filled up with water and what usually happens in a baptismal service.

Who can tell who was baptized in our Bible story? (Paul) Why did Paul need to be baptized?
(To wash away his sins)

How did Paul change after he was baptized?
(He started telling others about Jesus)

Close

The next time that someone is being baptized at our church, you will understand what is happening. I hope that someday when you are older you will decide to be baptized. It is the most important thing you will do in your life.
Let's pray a prayer together.



Teacher Resource

Communion Questions

Note that you can vary these answers to fit your church's routine.

1. Where do you get the wine (grape juice) and bread for Communion?

A church member goes to the store to buy the juice and bread.

2. Why are the Communion trays so fancy?

Do you ever use special or fancy plates at your house for holidays or birthdays? We use these special plates to let our church know that this is a special service.

3. What does the pastor say right before he passes the bread?

The body of Christ is broken for you. By saying this, it reminds us that Christ died on the cross for us—His body was broken for us.

4. What does the pastor say right before he passes the wine (juice)?

In our church we say, "The blood of Christ was shed for you" when we pass the wine. Again this helps us remember that Christ died for us—that His blood was shed for us. How amazing that Jesus would do that for us!

5. Who takes Communion?

Anyone who has been baptized. You need to be older to have a better understanding of Jesus, God, and church before you can fully understand the meaning of Communion.

6. Why is everyone so quiet during Communion?

Being quiet is a way to show respect for something or someone. We are respectful toward God and the other people in church when we are quiet. It gives people around us time to pray, think about God, and the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

7. What does the word Communion mean?

It means to share. When we have Communion we are sharing with other members of our church who feel the same commitment to God and Jesus.

Add any other questions you might think your students may have about the Communion Service.



A VERY IMPORTANT WORD!

Why is baptism so important?

B A P T I S M I S M
A B A B A P T I S M
B A P T I S M I S B
P P B A P T I S M B
T T A B A P T I S M
T I S B A P T I S M
T S S B A P T I S M
A M A B A P T I S M
B A P T I S M B A P
B A B A P T I S M S
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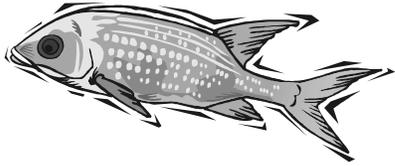
How many times can you find the word baptism?

_____ times



Deep Sea Fishing

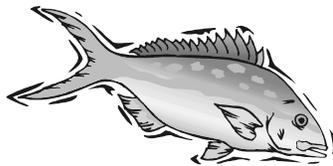
Deep Sea Fishing Points



10 points



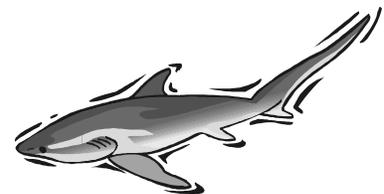
15 points



5 points



Give all your points
to the other team !



Lose all
your points!

Deep Sea Fishing Questions

1. **Who baptized Jesus?** (John the Baptist)
2. **What is washed away when you are baptized?** (your sins)
3. **Why was Jesus baptized?** (as an example to us)
4. **What river was Jesus baptized in?** (Jordan)
5. **What do you need to do in order to be baptized?** (Believe and Be sorry)
6. **True or False. Baptism is having water sprinkled over your head.**
7. **What did God do when His Son Jesus was baptized?** (He told Jesus that He was proud of Him.)
8. **What was John the Baptist like?** (He lived in the wilderness, wore animal skins)
9. **Who needs to be baptized?** (everyone)
10. **Is being dipped in water enough to be forgiven of our sins?**
(No, we need to be sorry and believe)

Review questions from previous lessons.

Who Was Baptized?

Look these verses up in your Bible. Each one tells about a person or group of people who were baptized. Who were they?

1. Acts 8:12

2. Acts 8:38

3. Acts 16:25-33

4. Acts 18:8

5. John 3:22, 23

6. I Corinthians 1:16

WORKSHEET

**HBEDTMHQAUTCB
NEULVISEWVOEPS
YACNMDE IYSZ
BXEPTMIWZDEXD
AWUIRLYLU BOEP
SXAVMEFDJMGAF
RSKJSMIFTUEOEP
NG SHIYXTBEEN**

**Cross out the second letter. Continue crossing out every other letter.
Write the letters that are left over in the space below.**

