

*Get Ready!***Become Clean**By: Myra Montgomery
Gayle Guthrie**Text**

Acts 22:12-16

Key Quest Verse

“Be baptized and wash your sins away.” Acts 22:16

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: Being baptized washes away your sins.

Feel: To be happy when they observe a baptism.

Do: To someday, when they are older, to make the decision to be baptized.

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 RSV). 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 waters 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: Doll (a Barbie doll “Ken” works well, tub or bucket with water, washcloth, clothes for the doll (fabric to look like a Bible - time dress)

Procedure: I brought my doll to play with today. (Bring out doll.) My doll must have gotten dirty the last time I played with her, what a mess! Do you think I should clean her up? Wait for their answers. then bring out the tub of water. Let the children take turns with the washcloth helping to clean her up. When you are finished, dress the doll in fresh clean clothes and comment on how nice she looks. Continue to hold the doll as you tell them the Bible story.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: None

Procedure: Gather the students around. Talk to them about washing and have them pantomime the following: wash face and hands, taking a bath, taking a shower, washing hair, washing a car, washing clothes.

Now that we are all clean, put your hands in your lap and listen to God’s washing plan!

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

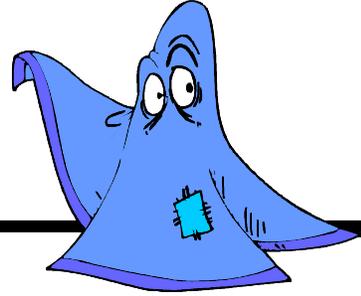
Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

Materials: Doll, water, bucket or tub

Today, we are going to learn a new word. The word is “baptize”. Can you say it with me? Say the word together twice. The word baptize means to clean someone by completely covering them with water. That is how we can know that our sins are washed away— by going under the water.

There was a man in the Bible whose name was Paul. (Bring out your doll dressed in Bible-time clothing. If you don’t have a doll, use the completed Teacher Resource page “Baptize In the River” as you tell the story.) **He was doing some very bad things to the Christians. He would put them in prison and sometimes hurt them. One day, Jesus spoke to Paul and told him to quit what he was doing. Jesus told him that it was wrong! Jesus told Paul to return to God’s way and do what was right. Paul decided to listen to Jesus. When he did this, a friend Ananias told Paul that he should be baptized and have his sins washed away.** (Bring out the tub of water.) **Paul was taken down into the water and put completely under it.**

(Demonstrate this with the doll.) **Paul was now a different man. His sins were gone and he tried very hard to follow God the rest of his life. He also told many other people about God and how they could be saved by Jesus, His Son.**

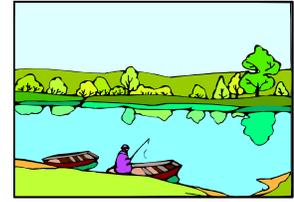
Go!**Experiencing Baptism****DRAMA****Materials:** Blue blanket or sheet**Quest Connection**

What is the word that means to be made clean by going under water? (baptize)
Today we are going to pretend.

Procedure: Have two students hold the blanket, one on each end. Stand behind the blanket and have a child who is willing to come behind the blanket with you. You can show the others what it might be like to be baptized by lowering the child under the “water” (the top edge of the blanket) and bringing him/her back up. As you lower the child, you might say, **“I now baptize you in the name of Jesus to wash away your sins.”** If other children want to try, let them come back with you and be lowered under the “water” as well. Explain to the children that this is just pretend. Ask them if they have ever seen someone baptized. Let them tell about it.

Close

Someday, when you are much older, I hope and pray that you will want to be baptized!
Being baptized is what God wants us to do.

Go!**Baptized in the River****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: A copy for each student of the two worksheets entitled “Baptized in the River”, crayons, glue or stapler

Quest Connection

Who was the man that was baptized in our story? (Paul) What were some of the bad things that Paul was doing? (putting Christians in prison, hurting them) Who spoke to Paul to tell him to stop doing bad things? (Jesus) What was Paul like after he was baptized? (good, he stopped doing bad things, he tried to do what God wanted, he told others about God and His Son, Jesus)

Procedure: Pass out the two worksheets to each student. With these pages they can make a river where they can “baptize” Paul. Color the picture and the two images of Paul. cut them out. Attach the river to the background page by gluing, stapling or taping the sides and the bottom.

Point out to the students that the one image of Paul has SIN all over him.

Before you begin the baptism, have the children lay the “clean” Paul down in the water. To begin, have Paul covered with SIN standing in the water. To baptize him, lay him down in the

Close

This time when we baptize Paul, we are going to say our memory verse. Let’s say it together first. “Be baptized and wash your sins away!” Acts 22:16 Now let us say it while we baptize Paul. (Repeat memory verse again.) Encourage them to show their parents and others how they can baptize Paul.

Go!**A Lesson In Color****OBJECT LESSON/WORKSHEET**

Materials: Four sheets of construction paper: one black, one red, one blue, and one white. A copy for each student of the worksheet “A Lesson in color”, crayons or markers

Quest Connection

I am going to show you some colors that will help us remember about what baptism means.

Procedure:

(Hold up the black one.) **This black piece of paper reminds us that we all have sinned.**

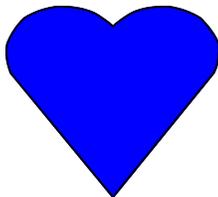
(Hold up the red one.) **This red piece reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.**

It is the color of blood. (Next hold up the blue one.) **Blue is the color of the water where we can be baptized and wash away our sins.** Finally, hold up the white sheet, **the white reminds us that after we are baptized we are clean and no longer have any sin.**

Now repeat the colors. As you hold up a color have them color in their hearts the right color on the worksheet.

Close

Isn't it wonderful that we can be baptized. Someday when you get older, you will know in your heart that you want to be baptized too, just like Paul did in our story.



Go!**What Was It Like?****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask someone to your class who would be willing to tell the children 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 afterwards?
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!**Good Listener****GAME**

Materials: Clothespins (the spring type)

Quest Connection

We are going to play a game to see how well you listened to our Bible story.

Procedure: Ask the students the following questions. Clip a clothespin to the clothes of the student who gets the question correct.

What is the word that means to be made clean by going under water? (baptize)

Who was the man that was baptized in our story? (Paul)

What were some of the bad things that Paul was doing? (putting Christians in prison, hurting them)

What was Paul like after he was baptized?

(good, he stopped doing bad things, he tried to do what God wanted, he told others about God and His Son, Jesus)

You could continue this game with more questions to review other lessons you have taught the students.

Close

Who remembers our memory verse? **“Be baptized and wash your sins away.” Acts 22:16**

Go!**Church Baptistry****FIELD TRIP**

Materials: Access to the place where baptisms are held such as a baptistry 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 baptistry 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)

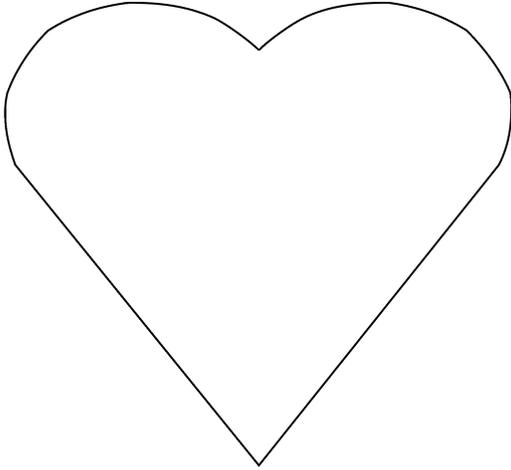
How did Paul change after he was baptized? (He started telling others about Jesus)

Close

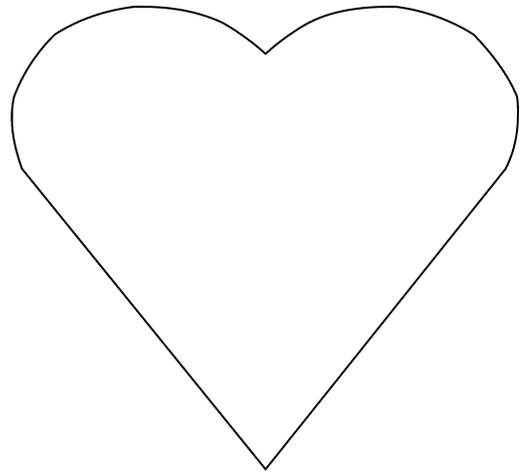
The next time that someone is being baptized at our church, you will understand what is happening. I hope that someday when you are older you will decide to be baptized. It is the most important thing you will do in your life.

Let's pray a prayer together.

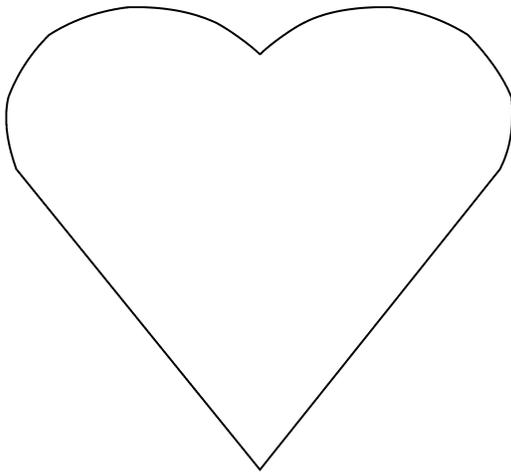




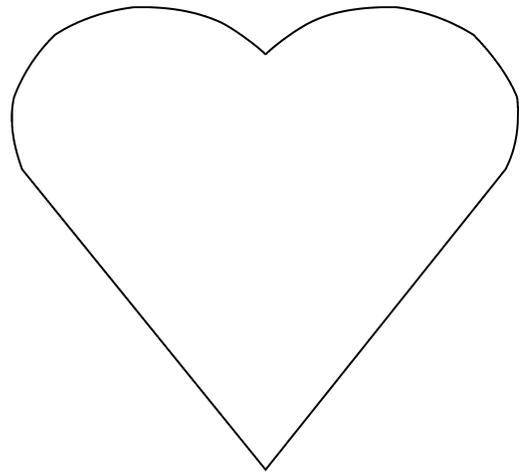
SIN



JESUS DIED



BAPTISM



CLEAN OF SINS

Trace over the letters of the memory verse with water paint or markers.

Be baptized
and wash your
sins away.

Acts
22:16



Dip the rim of a paper cup into some blue paint. Fill in the rest of the water with the paint.

JOURNAL PAGE



Baptized at the River



Baptized at the River

