

Get Ready!

Wash Away Your Sins

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Text

Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:37-41

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: Being baptized washes away your sins.

Feel: To be happy when they observe a baptism.

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

Leader's Devotion

“While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ dies 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

I want to tell you a story about a girl named Elizabeth.

Elizabeth wore her favorite dress to school. It was one her aunt had made for her. Her aunt made beautiful dresses for the best clothing shop in the city. People paid a very high price in order to get one of the lovely dresses. The aunt made every dress a little different. No one was ever able to say, “Oh, I have a dress just like yours.”

Elizabeth’s dress was light blue with white flowers on it. It had a collar different from any Elizabeth had ever worn. There were big pockets, which pleased Elizabeth very much. She felt so good wearing the pretty dress. She knew her friends would say it was the most beautiful dress they ever saw!

In the afternoon Elizabeth went to her Art class. There was paint at every table. Every kind of paint! Not just watercolor, but tempera paint, heavy finger paint, and oil paint. Elizabeth put on a paint smock, but it was pretty short. She knew that she would have to be careful!

But careful as she was she did get a big blob of oil paint on her dress. She tried to wash it out, but still there was a big dark stain when she reached home.

Elizabeth’s mother tried to remove the stain, but it just would not come out. Elizabeth cried, and thought she would never be able to wear the dress again! Finally her mother said, “I believe I can make this dress wearable again. I will dye it.” She bought some blue dye, and on Saturday morning prepared a big tub of hot water. She was sure that every part of the dress was completely covered with the dye water.

On Saturday afternoon after the dress was dried and ironed, it looked beautiful! The stain was entirely covered and the whole dress was a deeper, but prettier shade than before.

Elizabeth’s grandmother came to visit. She was told about the accident in the Art class, the ugly stain, the way the dress was dyed, and the good result. She said, “Why that makes me think of my Sunday school lesson for tomorrow.”

Listen to our Bible Story and tell me why it would remind you of what happened to the special dress.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Option B

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 him, what a mess! Do you think I should clean him 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



Get Set!



Bible Story

God told John the Baptist to dip people under water. This is called baptism. It showed God that the person loved Him and wanted to wash away the bad things that he'd done in his life and to be clean before God. People have to be old enough to understand that they are sinners; then they choose to have baptism, or washing. Could a baby be baptized? No! Could somebody older, like 14 years old, or forty? Yes. Jesus did not need to have His sins washed away. He never did anything bad. He was the perfect Son of God. But He was baptized by John to show us an example of obeying God. A while later, Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. He died for everyone who will believe.

Later, Jesus' helper Peter, was telling a whole crowd of people about this great Jesus. Peter preached a sermon like our Minister (name your pastor) does in church. The people really listened to Peter. He said, "Jesus is God's Son, the one you've been wanting to come. He came to pay for your sins." Peter told the people, "You hated Jesus, but He died to help you! You made a bad mistake! Jesus is good! God wants you to obey and love Him!"

The people said, "We didn't know Jesus was the Savior God sent. We're sorry! We believe you! But what can we do about it now?" Peter gave a very important answer: "Everyone of you should be sorry for the bad things that you have done, and be baptized and be forgiven for your sins through the death of Jesus." Three thousand people believed and obeyed! Wow!

We know that water doesn't really wash away the bad things that we've done, because those things are on the inside, not on the outside like dirt. But baptism shows that our God forgives our sins. He cleans us on the inside of all the bad things we've done.

When you're older and understand more about Jesus and His Kingdom, Jesus wants you to be baptized too!

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 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!**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.

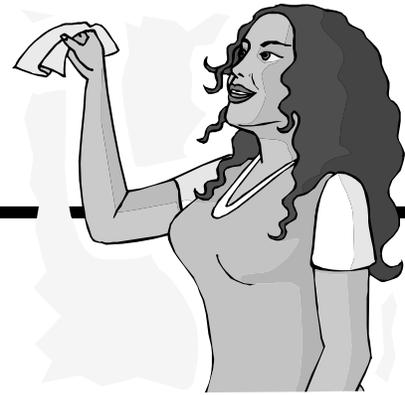
Who can tell who was baptized in our Bible story? (Paul) Why did Paul need to be baptized?
(To wash away his sins)

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.



Go!**Demonstration****DRAMA**

Materials: A small handkerchief, blue towel or cloth

Quest Connection

Have you ever seen a baptism at church or in the river? We are going to play/act baptism.

Procedure: Choose one child to be baptized. Have the others stand in a circle; tell them that they are the people watching. You can be the minister. In the center of the circle, stand next to the one who is to be “baptized.” Explain that you are standing in pretend water up to the child’s waist. Ask (and have the child answer):

1. **Do you want to be forgiven for your sins?**
2. **Do you believe Jesus died to pay for your sins?**
3. **Do you want to live a new life in Jesus?**
4. **Do you know Jesus is coming again?**

Give the child a folded hankie to put over his nose and mouth. Have him stand stiffly with his arms crossed. Then, either simply take him down and up, or put a blue towel (make-believe water) over the child, including his head, and bring him up.

Have the other children clap and say, “Praise the Lord!” or “Thank you, Jesus.”

Close

Explain that the decision to be baptized is the best and happiest decision of a person’s life. **Won’t you be glad when you’re old enough to do this?**

Go!**Washed Away****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Q-tips, bleach, small cups or container (not very tall), blue or black construction paper, one sheet for each student

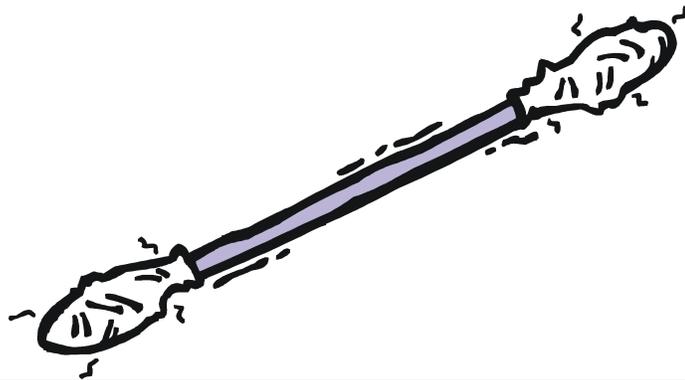
Quest Connection

Who remembers our memory verse? We are going to do something special with our verse today.

Procedure: Pour a small amount of bleach into the small containers. Using a pencil, write the memory verse in large letters for each student on the sheet of blue construction paper, if they are unable to do it themselves. Demonstrate how to carefully dip one end of the Q-tip in the bleach. Carefully go over the words with the Q-tip. The construction paper should turn lighter where you have put the bleach.

Close

We can remember the meaning of baptism as we do this activity. Our sins will be washed away, just like the color has vanished on our paper.



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.



Who Must Be?

GAME

Materials: Ten index cards, felt marker

Quest Connection

Who do you think needs to be baptized? We are going to play a game and see if we all agree.

Procedure: Write the words listed below on a index card. Show the students and have one of them read the word out loud. Ask them who has or needs to be baptized? Put the card in a “yes” pile or the “no” pile. You can repeat the game so the students will understand the concept of baptism.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sinners | God |
| Our pastor | My neighbor |
| Animals | Anyone who wants to be in God’s Kingdom |
| My parents | Myself when I get older |
| My brothers and sisters | My teacher |

Close

It doesn’t matter who you are, everyone needs to be baptized. Who remembers our memory verse?

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, and that 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.

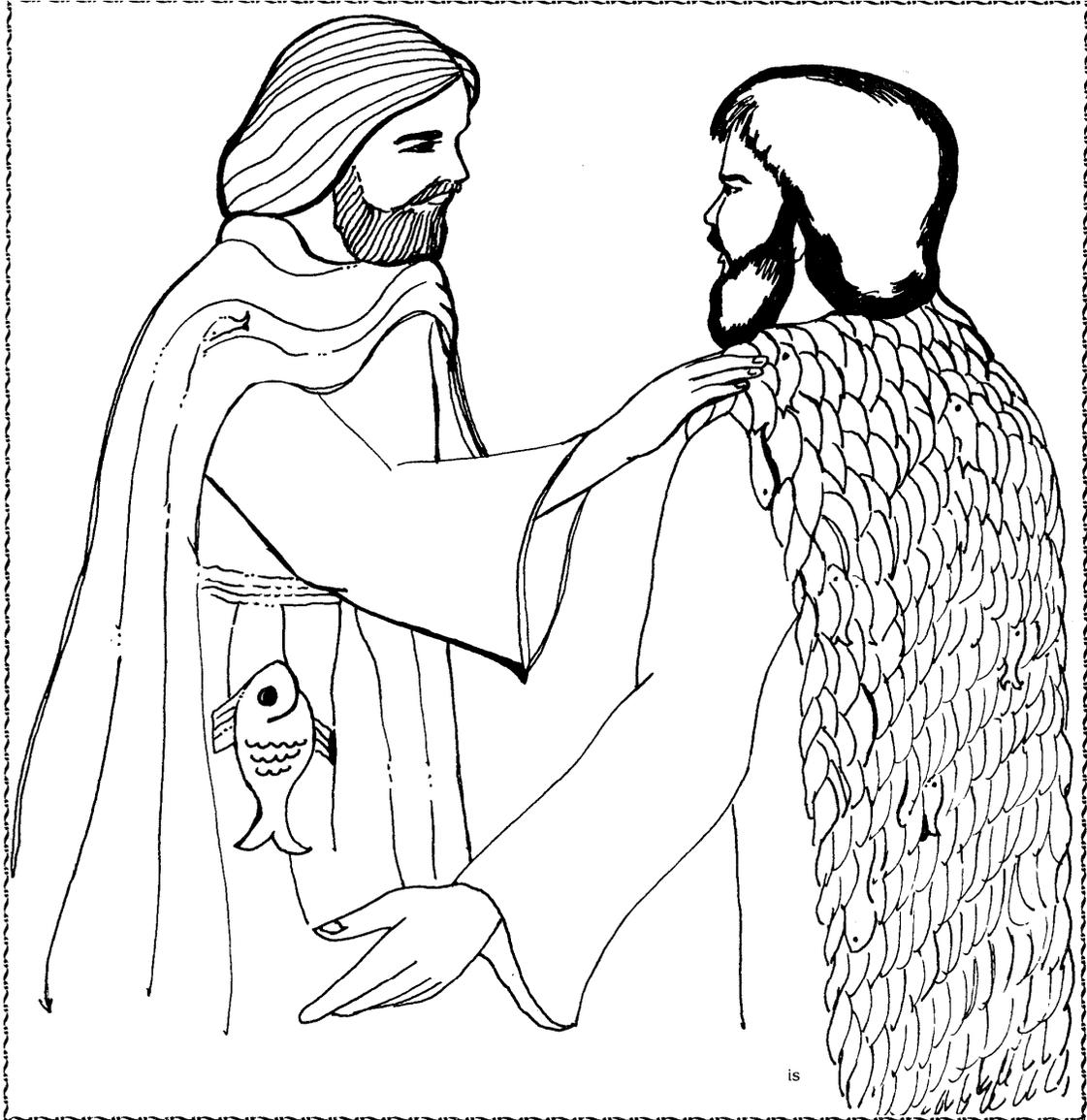
7. What does the word Communion mean?

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 would have about the Communion Service.



Jesus was baptized!



There were many fish in the Jordan River. Can you find ten fish in this picture of Jesus and John?

**Start with the first letter and then put every other letter
in the lines below. You will find a Bible verse
to hide in your heart!**

H K E R T P H N A Z T L B W E M L Q I C E D V S E B T

K H O A G N X D P I W S A B W A L P N T M I C Z R E

G D Q S E H L A P L W L R B R E B S H A W V T E N D

“ _____

_____.”



Draw pictures below of who the Bible says needs to be baptized. (everyone!)

JOURNAL PAGE



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