

Get Ready!**The First Step**

By: Annie Wagganer

**Text**

Acts 16:22-34, Acts 2; 3:17-20

Key Quest Verse

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” Acts 2:38a

Bible Background

The word baptism means immersion. It is translated from the Greek “baptize.” to dip, to immerse, to sink. Baptism indicates that the believer has entered into a personal relationship with Christ, and has accepted for himself the benefits of Christ’s sacrificial death.

Baptism must be preceded by repentance and faith. He who is to be baptized must first turn his back to sin through repentance and turn his face toward Christ through faith. When Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you” (Acts 2:38), he taught that repentance must precede baptism. When Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16), He showed that man must believe before he is baptized. Baptism is the sinner’s outward testimony that he is a repentant believer. As the burial of the old life, baptism reveals that the believer has died to his old nature. As entrance into Christ, baptism reveals that the repentant sinner has exercised faith in Christ

Taken from, Systematic Theology, Alva G. Huffer

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****I want my students to:****Know:** The need for repentance and baptism.**Feel:** Encouraged by the cleansing of baptism.**Do:** Explore their decision to accept Jesus through baptism.**Leader's Devotion**

Before you begin a lesson on the importance of baptism, consider for a moment the following question, “When I repent of my sins is there a tendency to stand up for myself?” It is a scary thing to bring light into darkness and expose the sin. It is a scary moment to admit complete helplessness. Sometimes to ease the frightening emotions and anxiousness that repentance often brings, justification and ignorance become my means of defense. But to defend myself in the presence of complete forgiveness is to misrepresent the significance of the cross. It’s as if my sins are somehow more forgivable if I didn’t mean to or if I didn’t know better. But forgiveness isn’t offered on a scale, it is just offered. Before you teach on the necessity and the excitement of baptism, make sure you remember your own cleansing and what has been offered to you as a new creation in Christ. Take all the forgiveness that has been offered and do so without defending yourself. Then share this truth with your class.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Eraser, correction fluid, bar of soap, a bottle of Windex

Arrange all the objects for each student to see and ask, **“What do all of these products have in common?”** After the class has had a chance to respond, explain, **“All of these products are designed to get rid of something. What does an eraser get rid of? What does correction fluid get rid of? Soap? Windex? What are some other products that we use to get rid of things we don’t want? Stores have lots of items to sell that are bought with the intention of getting rid of our unwanted garbage in life, but there’s no product on the market that we can buy to do away with our sin. However, today we’ll learn about a man who chose a fail-proof way to erase his sins, and he didn’t buy any remedies from the store.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: A wrapped present with a treat inside to share with the class

When you are given a gift, you have the choice whether to accept it or not. How many of you have ever not taken a gift? Has anyone every been given something they didn’t think they deserved or thought was too generous and felt uncomfortable taking. Most of us like receiving gifts and we are thankful when we are given something. When it comes to the gift of God’s love, we have to realize that there is nothing we can do to earn it. We have two choices, we can receive it as a gift or we can live without it. We receive it by accepting His Son into our lives and we are baptized, which we are going to talk more about today. Let the students open the wrapped present and share the treat inside.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Advanced Preparation: Make sure each student has a highlighter to use in their own Bible for highlighting the text.

Read together Acts 9:1-18. Ask for a volunteer to summarize the story in their own words. Be sure to ask and discuss: **What was the important decision Saul made at the end of our story? Why do you think He decided to do this?**

Go!**Getting Answers****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: The pastor or a leader in your church, index cards, pens, a thank you card

Procedure: Invite the pastor or a leader in your church to come as a special guest in your class and answer any questions the teens might have concerning baptism. Before they arrive, have the teens write questions on index cards so that they will be ready with questions and so that if someone would like to be anonymous, all cards can go into one pile for the pastor to read from.

Quest Connection

Baptism is a choice we make to show that we are deciding to turn away from the sin in our life and accept Christ as our Savior, knowing He is the only way to have eternal life. We are immersed under water, confessing that we believe in God’s plan for salvation, that His one and only Son died for our sins and was raised three days later and is coming again.

Close

Have students verbally thank the class guest and after the guest has left, pass around a thank you card for each one to sign. Be sure to also encourage the students to continue asking any questions they might think of beyond this class time.



Go!

A Living Sacrifice

CREATIVE WRITING

Materials: Pencils, *My Wildest Dreams* worksheet

Procedure: Read Genesis 22:1-13 and the devotion under the Quest Connection. Have students complete the worksheets individually, encouraging them to dream big and allowing time for anyone who wants to share to have the opportunity.



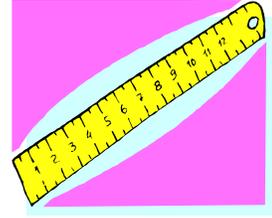
Quest Connection

“This incident [in Genesis 22] is a picture of the blunder we make in thinking that the final thing God wants of us is the sacrifice of death. We seem to think that God wants us to give up things! God purified Abraham from this blunder, and the same discipline goes on in our lives. God nowhere tells us to give up things for the sake of giving them up. He tells us to give them up for the sake of the only thing worth having, life with Himself. It is of no value to God to give Him your life for death. He wants you to be a ‘*living sacrifice*,’ to let Him have all your powers that have been saved and sanctified through Jesus. This is the thing that is acceptable to God.” (Taken from *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers).

Sometimes we think that being baptized is when we give up everything and we have to start living by strict rules and quit having any fun because now we have to be a perfect Christian. But the truth is when we are baptized and the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have the power to do anything for God and He wants to see us grow and become actively involved in pursuing Him more and more. God wants to use us in big ways and nothing is impossible for Him. So, let’s go ahead and dream big for our futures with Christ!

Close

Baptism is just the beginning step of a life that is lived for God, the first step in becoming a *living sacrifice*.

Go!**Who Needs It?****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: *How do I measure up?* worksheet, pencils and a couple calculators

Procedure: Using the worksheet, have teens calculate their “goodness” factor. The goal is to make it to 1,000 points, anything less is a failing grade.

Quest Connection

Christ’s death and resurrection was for everyone, not one person is saved except through Him, no matter how incredibly good they might be or even how incredibly bad they might seem. Sometimes it is easy to catch the “comparison-bug” and judge ourselves against the good and bad behavior of other people, thinking we are either better or worse. But it simply doesn’t matter, the message of salvation is for everyone and anyone who will accept it. God loves us so much that even in our darkest sin we have the opportunity to choose to follow the light of the world, His Son. Praise God that He has patiently given everyone that opportunity.

Close

Sometimes it seems like if we do all the right things we can earn God’s love or that if we commit what we feel is a horrible sin God will never love us again. But the act of baptism defeats this myth. It is an outward display of individuals who accept the truth that they need Christ to be the Lord of their life no matter what their good and bad records are.

Go!**Spitting Out Sin****FOOD**

Materials: Three samples of foods that are not typically well-liked, such as spinach, raw radishes and black licorice

Quest Connection

How many of you like any of these foods that I brought in today? Is there any of them that anyone would like to try a tasting? Has anyone ever tried a new food and didn't like it? What did you do, keep eating it? Order more? When we don't like a certain food we definitely don't keep eating it. Sin often times looks enticing and we want to try it. But after a while it can leave a very bitter feeling in our hearts just like some foods can leave a bitter taste in our mouths. But just like I'm sure we've all done before, we can spit out the sin in our lives like we spit food out that tastes horrible. God calls this repenting. It is acknowledging the sin and it's filthiness in our life and also turning away from it. We are commanded as followers of Christ to repent, spit the sin out, and be baptized.

Close

Be aware of your sins so that you can repent and spit them out of your life!

Go!



Nothing Comes Free

OBJECT LESSON

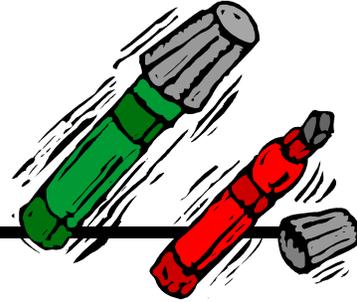
Materials: \$1.00 coupons to local fast-food restaurants, enough for one per student

Quest Connection

Getting something on sale, with a discount, or with a coupon is the next best thing to getting it for free. Do you agree? I love it when I don't have to pay the whole price for something. I brought with me today several coupons. These coupons will take the place of one dollar when you pay for your food and you don't have to spend as much of your own money when you have them. How many of you would like to have one of these? Pass the coupons out to the class. In 1 Corinthians 6:20, it says we "were bought with a price." Our forgiveness cost Jesus His life. Ephesians 1:7 says that we "have redemption through His blood," and Ephesians 2:8 reminds us that "by grace we have been saved through faith; and it is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." Forgiveness isn't free and it can't be paid for with a coupon or with a discount. There is no substitute for Christ's death on the cross. He had to pay the full price of our sin which the Bible says is death. Forgiveness is only available to us because of Christ's death; there was a cost and He paid it. He gave His life so that you might live, now you can choose to live your life for Him. Will you?

Close

Whenever you buy something again and it is on sale or you have a coupon, remember that your sins can all be forgiven because Christ paid the entire price to cover them.

Go!**Only The Beginning****GAME**

Materials: Markers and lots of blank paper

Procedure: Have students get into pairs and give them 5 minutes to try and learn everything they can about the other person including things about their family and their favorites (movie, color, number, book, etc.). At the end of that five minutes have each pair sit in chairs with their backs toward their partner. Take the next 10 minutes to ask questions like the ones listed below. After asking a questions, have one person in each pair write down how they think their partner will answer and then have the second person in each pair tell their answer aloud. Keep track of how many questions each pair is able to guess correctly and at the end see who got to know their partner the best.

Sample Questions:

1. What is your partner's favorite color?
2. How many people are in your partner's family?
3. What is your partner's favorite class at school?
4. Who is your partner's favorite professional athlete?
5. What grade is your partner in at school?
6. What is your partner's favorite food?
7. Where was your partner born?

Quest Connection

We all know that it takes much more than five minutes to get to know someone, including our Savior, Jesus Christ. When we decide to accept Him as our Savior, it's not the end of getting to know Him, it's actually just the beginning.

Close

Pass out the Journal Page to each student. As we end class today, I want us all to take a few minutes to write down questions you still have about Jesus that you want to learn more about and ways you want to get to know Him better.

HOW DO I MEASURE UP?

I have helped a friend who needed me. (+100 points) _____

I have given another person a compliment. (+50 points) _____

I have told a lie at least once in my life. (-200 points) _____

I have made my bed at least five times this year. (+20 points) _____

I have read my Bible. (+300 points) _____

I have invited someone else to come to church. (+350 points) _____

I have laughed at another person who was being made fun of. (-350 points) _____

I have shared something of mine with someone else. (+300 points) _____

I have forgiven someone when they hurt my feelings. (+425 points) _____

I have held a grudge against a friend for at least a day. (-275 points) _____

I have cheated on a school assignment. (-325 points) _____

I have helped another person when they needed something. (+250 points) _____

I have told only half the truth so I wouldn't get in trouble. (-250 points) _____

I have watched a TV program I wasn't supposed to. (-300 points) _____

I have prayed for forgiveness of my own sins. (+450 points) _____

My Big Grand Point Total = _____

MY WILDEST DREAMS!

◆ GOD HAS CHOSEN ME TO WORK AT _____

AS A(N) _____. HERE I GET TO BRING HIM GLORY BY

AND _____

_____.

◆ I HAVE TRAVELED TO _____ IN ORDER TO

SHARE WHAT I KNOW ABOUT GOD AND HIS SON WHICH IS _____

AND _____

_____.

◆ I MAKE SURE THAT I FOCUS MY LIFE ON THE THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD EVERY

DAY BY USING THE _____ THAT HE

GAVE ME AND BY SHARING THE _____

_____ THAT HE ALSO PROVIDED FOR ME.

◆ THERE IS NO WAY I WILL EVER FORGET THE TIME WHEN GOD _____

_____ FOR ME.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

These are areas in my life where I need to repent and spit out the sin in my life.

In the circles below write any questions you still have about Jesus.
In the rectangles below write ways that you want to get to know Him more.

The form consists of five gray shapes arranged in a cluster. On the left side, there are three circles of varying sizes. On the right side, there are two rectangles of varying sizes. The shapes are intended for students to write their questions and ways to know Jesus more.