

4



THE LIFE GIVING WATER OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 1: ENTERING THE KINGDOM

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Acts 2: 38-39, Matthew 28: 18-20, Mark 16: 15-16, John 3:5, Romans 6:3-7, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-27, Colossians 2:9-15, 1 Peter 3:20-22

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about entering God's Kingdom.
- Baptism is a sacrament. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Water is the outward and visible sign in baptism.
- In baptism the inward and spiritual grace is that God washes away my sin, gives me his Holy Spirit and new life in Christ. God also joins me to himself and the Church in a special way and enables me to live in his Kingdom forever.
- God uses the outward and visible sign to help us know that we received the inward and spiritual grace.
- The Old Testament story of Noah points forward to the sacrament of baptism.
- Jesus was baptized, and he wants us to follow him and be baptized too.

Memory Verse "Repent and be baptized ... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38 – NIRV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's story of The Lifegiving Water of Baptism is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q10 How should you respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? As soon as I receive and believe the Gospel, I should repent of my sins, put faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior

and Lord, and prepare to be baptized.

Q14 What should you do as the sign of your repentance and faith? After receiving instruction in the faith, I should be baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, thus joining his Body, the Church. If I have already been baptized, I should confess my sins, seek the guidance of a minister, affirm the promises made at my Baptism, and take my place as a member of the Church.

Q88 How do you receive the Holy Spirit? The Scriptures teach that, by repenting and being baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, I am forgiven my sins and I receive the Holy Spirit, who gives me new birth in Christ and frees me from the power of sin.

Q121 What is a sacrament? A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. God gives us the sign as a means by which we receive that grace and as a tangible assurance that we do in fact receive it.

Q126 What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism? The outward and visible sign is water, in which candidates are baptized "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Q127 What is the inward and spiritual grace given in Baptism? The inward and spiritual grace is death to sin and new birth to righteousness, through union with Christ in his death and resurrection. I am born a sinner by nature, separated from God. But in Baptism, through faith in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I am made a member of Christ's Body and adopted as God's child and heir.

Q122 How should you receive the sacraments? I should receive the sacraments by faith in Christ, with repentance and thanksgiving. Faith in Christ is necessary to receive the grace of the sacraments, and obedience to Christ is necessary for the benefits of the sacraments to bear fruit in my life.

Q123 What sacraments were ordained by Christ? The two sacraments ordained by Christ that are "generally necessary to salvation" (1662 Catechism) are Baptism and Holy Communion...

Q128 What is required of you when you come to be baptized? Two things are required: repentance, in which I turn away from sin; and faith, in which I turn to Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and trust the promises that God makes to me in this sacrament.

Q360 How does God enable you to live in his forgiveness? Through faith, repentance, and Baptism, I am made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Washed of sin and united to Christ, I am "justified," being declared righteous by God, and I am given the grace to live continually in repentance and faith.

Q129 Why is it appropriate to baptize infants? Because it is a sign of God's promise that they are embraced in the covenant community of Christ's Church. Those who in faith and repentance present infants to be baptized vow to raise them in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, with the expectation that they will one day profess full Christian faith as their own.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Large word cards: "SACRAMENT", "OUTSIDE – VISIBLE", "INSIDE – SPIRITUAL", large equals sign
- Jug of water and empty bowl (preferably glass or clear plastic).
- Noah's Ark poster (found in props document)
- Large heart Baptism poster (found in props document)
- Peg dolls: Dad, mom with baby, child
- Small word cards: "FORGIVENESS", "HOLY SPIRIT", "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST", "JOINED TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH"
- Story board symbols: Baptismal font, baptism arrow, New Life in Christ card

Posters: Year 1 - Lesson #14 – John the Baptist (Jesus' Baptism)

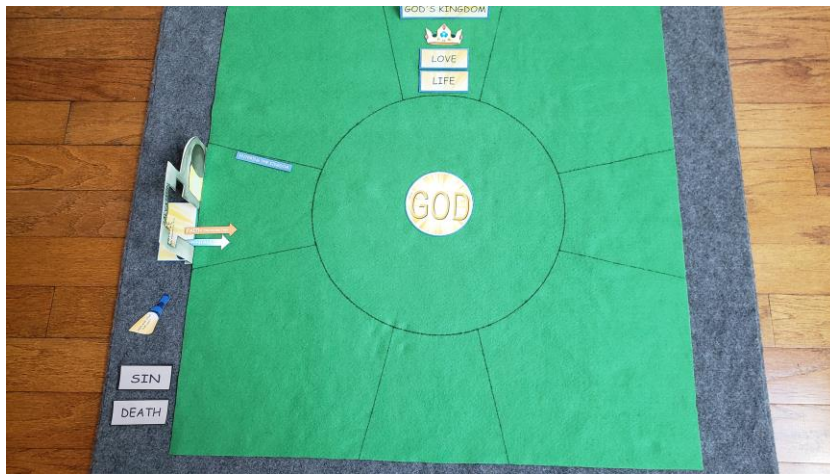
Memory Verse: "Repent and be baptized ... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38 – NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Jesus loves me this I know Jesus you died upon a cross (Salvation Poem – Superbook) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

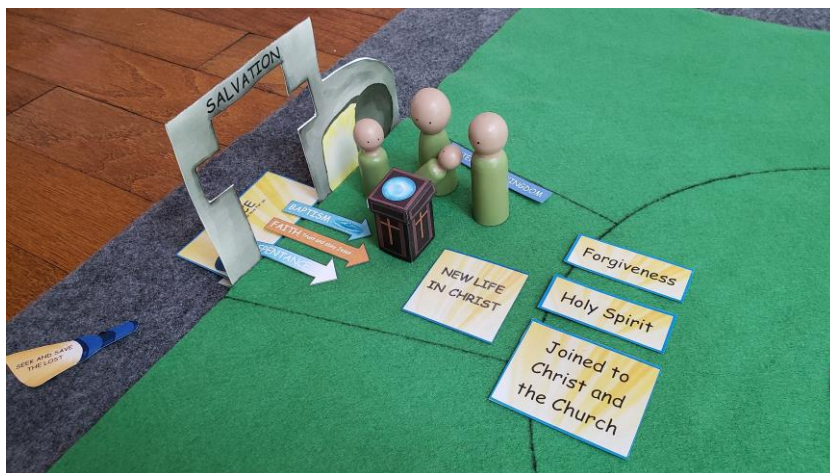
3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson



This is how the sacrament teaching should look.



This is how the Entering the Kingdom section should look at the **end** of the lesson. After the lesson, remove the peg dolls and the 3 word cards on the right, and leave the font along with the other symbols on the storyboard for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations. One with the Kingdom Life storyboard and one for the Sacrament teaching. After the storyboard review, move to the second station for the sacrament teaching.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about Entering God's Kingdom.'*

STORYBOARD REVIEW:

(Point to storyboard): We have learned how God made us to know him as our King and enjoy his love and life. But our sin separates us from God and leads to eternal death.

What does the flashlight represent? (That Jesus came to seek and save the lost. To save every human being from sin and death.)

Can you save yourself from sin and death? (No, I have no power to save myself. I am lost without Jesus. But through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, I have forgiveness of sin and can enter into the life in God's Kingdom. This is called salvation.)

What does "grace" mean? (Grace is God's undeserved love for us. God's love and salvation through Jesus is a free gift to us that we don't deserve. Because of our sin we deserve death, but God has given us his life and love instead.)

What does "repentance" mean? (Repentance means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God. Repentance is part of receiving the free gift of Salvation through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent, trust and obey Jesus.)

What does "faith" mean? (To trust and obey Jesus. Faith is another important part of receiving the free gift of Salvation through Jesus.)

ACTION: *Move to the second station for the sacrament teaching.*

STORY: *(See photo above for placement of the different props)*

TEACHER: Today we are going to talk about the Sacrament of Baptism.

How many of you have either been baptized or have seen a baptism? *(Let children share their experience.)*

TEACHER: We always use water when we baptize. *(Hold up water jug)*

What do we normally use water for? *(Take suggestions from the children.)*

Yes, one of the things we use water for is washing our bodies. We wash the **outside** of our bodies with water, but in baptism God uses water to clean us on the **inside**. In baptism God forgives all the sins in our heart.

(Hold up Noah's Ark poster) In the story of Noah God used the flood water to wash away the sin and wickedness on earth. This was a picture pointing forward to how God would use the water of baptism to wash away the sin inside us.

Baptism is a Sacrament. *(Place the word "Sacrament" down as shown in photo.)* "Sacrament" is a very big word. Let's say it together *(say "sacrament" with the children).*

What does the word "sacrament" mean? *(Put "equals" sign down)*

The word "sacrament" means that God uses something visible that is **outside** of us *(put "outside - visible" card down)*, to do something spiritual **inside** of us. *(put "inside - spiritual" card down).*

In the sacrament of baptism, the outside visible thing God uses is the water *(place the bowl down and pour water into it.)*

The spiritual things that happen inside us in baptism *(place heart poster down)* are that:

- We have **forgiveness**, we are washed clean of sin, and
- the **Holy Spirit** comes to live inside us.
- We are given **new life in Christ** Jesus.
- And we are **joined to Christ and the Church** in a special way.

(Point to word cards and symbols as you say:) Why does God use an **outside** visible thing like water to bring his life **inside** us?

It is because that makes it easier for us to know for sure that we received his life. The life that God shares with us in baptism is an invisible, **spiritual** thing. But the **water** is not invisible, it is something we can see and touch. When we see the water and feel it touching the **outside** of our bodies, it helps us to know that God is doing a work **inside** us.

(Hold up Jesus' baptism poster – Year 1, Lesson #14.) Jesus was also baptized, and when we follow Jesus, we will want to be baptized as well.

But Jesus had no sin, so why did he have to be baptized? Jesus was baptized because he was going to take **our** sin upon himself on the cross.

TEACHER: Let's go to our storyboard now and talk more about baptism.

ACTION: *Sit down by the storyboard with the children. Point to the storyboard symbols as you speak, and have ready the baptismal symbols, peg dolls and "word" cards FORGIVENESS, HOLY SPIRIT, NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, JOINED TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH ready to place down as shown in photo.*

TEACHER: Baptism is an important part of entering God's Kingdom. *(Place the baptismal font as shown.)*

Let's place this "BAPTISM" arrow next to the other arrows going through the cross gate *(place the "BAPTISM" arrow down as shown)*, because repentance, faith and baptism are all part of **receiving** the free gift of salvation through Jesus.

Sometimes babies are baptized, and sometimes older children or adults are baptized. *(Place parents, baby and child peg dolls as shown.)*

When babies are baptized, their parents promise that they will raise their child to know and love Jesus.

(Place down the corresponding word cards as you say the highlighted words.) The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and has gone the wrong way. There is sin in everyone's heart. But by repenting, having faith in Jesus and being baptized we have **FORGIVENESS** for our sins and God's **HOLY SPIRIT** to live in our hearts. Then we will have **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST** and will be **JOINED TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH** in a special way. We become a child of God. We start loving, obeying, and following Jesus. He will be our King and we will live with him in his Kingdom forever.

Baptism is a wonderful event that everyone in the Church celebrates!

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: If you haven't yet been baptized, then talk about it with your parents or grandparents or whoever brings you to church. Your Sunday School lessons prepare you for baptism, and you may also take part in special lessons called "catechism" that teach you even more about our faith in Jesus. When you are baptized, ALL of us in the church will celebrate with you!

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you that through baptism you wash us clean of sin, you give us your Holy Spirit and new life, and you join us to Christ and the Church in a special way. Please help us to love and follow Jesus every day. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about Jesus?** (He was baptized, he wants us to repent, have faith in him and be baptized, he gives us new life, we are joined to Christ and the Church in baptism, he wants us to follow him.)
- **What does the word sacrament mean?** (It means that God uses something visible that is outside of us to bring his spiritual life inside us.)
- **Is baptism a sacrament?** (Yes)
- **Why does God use water in baptism?** (Because he wants us to know that he is washing us clean inside.)
- **What happens inside of us when we are baptized?** (We have forgiveness (we are washed clean of sin) and the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. In baptism God joins us to himself and the Church in a special way and gives us new life in Christ Jesus.)
- **On our storyboard, what are the three arrows that tell us how we receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus?** (Repentance, faith, and baptism.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Repent and be
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name of Jesus Christ
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(Acts 2:38)