



GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

LIFE

GRACE
God's undeserved
love for us

SALVATION



BAPTISM

FAITH Trust and obey Jesus

REPENTANCE

SACRAMENT

Forgiveness

Holy Spirit

New life in
Christ

Joined to Christ
and the Church

BAPTISM



ENTERING THE KINGDOM



SIN

DEATH

Lesson 4: *The Lifegiving Water of Baptism* (Condensed Version)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Scripture: Acts 2:38 -39)

Objectives: To explain that: *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.

Review and "I Wonder" Questions: (*point to relevant symbols*) We have learned that 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. Because of sin we are lost, we cannot enter God's Kingdom by ourselves, so Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sin and can enter into life in God's Kingdom. We are saved by grace. Grace is God's undeserved love for us. Through repentance, faith, and baptism, we receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus. Repentance means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God. Faith means to trust and obey Jesus. Today we will talk about what baptism means. ***I wonder** why there is a boat in the stormy waters. Let's find out in our lesson....

Lesson Props: Jug of water and bowl. Optional large version of story picture on pg. 3

Lesson Summary: (*hold up jug of water*) What do we normally use water for? (*Children's responses*) Yes, one thing 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. Remember the story about Noah and the ark? (*Point to ark*) 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. (*Point to the word sacrament*) The word "**sacrament**" means that God uses something visible that is outside of us to do something spiritual inside us. In the sacrament of baptism, the outside visible thing God uses is the water. (*Pour water into bowl*) The spiritual things that happen inside us in baptism are: We have **forgiveness** (we are washed clean of sin); 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.

Why does God use water in baptism? It is because when we see and feel the water touching the outside of our bodies, it helps us to know that God is doing a spiritual work inside us.

Jesus has saved us, and we receive his free gift of salvation by repenting of our sins, putting our faith in Jesus, and being baptized. 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! Sometimes babies are baptized, and sometimes older children or adults are baptized. If you haven't yet been baptized, then talk about it with your parents or grandparents or whoever brings you to church. When you are baptized, ALL of us in the church will celebrate with you!

Suggested Questions: **What does this lesson tell us about Jesus?** (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); 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.)

Bible 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)



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