

Baptism

Story (Matthew 3:11, 13-17; 28:18-20)

Just as Jesus began to teach and heal people, He went out to the Jordan River. A prophet named John was there calling people to turn from their sins because the Savior they had been waiting for was coming soon. Jesus was that Savior!

Jesus had no sins to repent from, but He wanted to be baptized by John in order to give an example for us to follow and to show that He agreed with John's message. Initially John didn't want to baptize Jesus. John told Him, "I need to be baptized by you!" John knew that Jesus was greater and that he wasn't even worthy to carry His sandals. However, John agreed to baptize Jesus after He told John that it was the right thing to do.

John baptized Jesus. Jesus went all the way under the water. When He came up out of the water, God's voice from heaven said, "This is my son whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Toward the end of His ministry on earth, Jesus commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all peoples of the world and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They were also to teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded them. His disciples did as commanded, and everywhere they went, they baptized those who decided to become Jesus' followers.

All should practice retelling the story until they can do so confidently.

Questions

1. What is this story saying?
2. What does it teach you about baptism?
3. What should you obey?

Memory verse

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, 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)

The significance and meaning of Baptism

What is baptism?

Baptism is a picture/reminder of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:1-11). When we go under the water, we remember that our old self (our sin) has been buried with Jesus. When we come up out of the water, we remember that we have been raised with Jesus to a new life.

Baptism is also a special sign to God and others that we love Jesus and want to follow Him. When people marry, they often take on a sign to express to everyone that they are married. What are some examples in your culture of signs that people are married? When you follow Jesus, you should tell God and everyone else how much you love Him and want to belong only to Him.

Why be baptized?

- Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3:13-17)
- Jesus commands us to. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Baptism questions

1. Do you know that God has forgiven all your sins through Jesus' sacrifice?
2. Are decided to follow Jesus and never turn back?
3. Will you keep following Jesus even when they curse, hit, arrest, imprison, or threaten to kill you? (Will you keep following Jesus even if it means losing your job, being kicked out of your family, or facing other typical difficulties as a response to your new faith?)

Preparing for baptism

You can celebrate your faith at your baptism!

- When should the baptism be?
- Whom should we invite?
- At your baptism you can prepare your story with God to tell everybody how God rescued and changed you.

Set a time to be baptized as soon as possible. Go through the baptism questions and resolve any questions.