

LESSON 5

THE SACRAMENT OF WATER BAPTISM

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the purposes of water baptism.
2. To learn the biblical method of water baptism, through which we can receive salvation.
3. To acknowledge that we should continually put on Christ and walk with Him after baptism.

MEMORY VERSE

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

(Acts 2:38)

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for guiding us through another week so that we can gather here to learn. We praise You for Your love that allows us be born again in You. You have washed away our sins so that we can live as children of light. May You help us to focus in class so that we are able to learn about water baptism and how we can apply its teachings into our lives.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. *What Is a Sacrament?*
 - b. *Looking at Water Baptism in the Bible*
 - Full Immersion
 - Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
 - Baptized in the likeness of Jesus Christ's death
 - Baptized in living water
 - Requirements of the baptist and the person receiving water baptism
 - c. *Purpose of Water Baptism*
 - To become a child of God
 - To put on Christ
 - To enter the kingdom of heaven
 - d. *Purpose of Water Baptism*
 - For the remission of sins
 - To become a child of God
 - To put on Christ
 - To be saved
 - e. *How Is Water Baptism Able to Wash Away Our Sins?*
- 2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—Water Baptism
3. Life Application—What Does It Mean to Put On Christ?
4. Activity—Defending the Truth



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Water baptism has been prefigured in the Old Testament in events such as the great flood (1 Pet 3:20) or the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites (1 Cor 10:1-2). There were also many prophecies in the Bible concerning baptism. Zechariah 13:1 talks about a fountain that will be opened to cleanse people from sin. Micah 7:19 mentions the act of casting sin into the sea. In the New Testament, John the Baptist baptized people for repentance (Ac 19:4) and Jesus Christ also set the example for us when He was baptized in the Jordan River (Mt 3:13-17). Right before Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples to go and baptize people in His name (Mt 28:19). It is very evident in the Old and New Testament that God uses water baptism as the way for us to receive salvation and the forgiveness of our sins.



Reaching Out to Your Students

The teachings of water baptism are abstract, so it may be difficult for E2 students to understand. We can reach our students by drawing connections between water baptism and the act of the washing or bathing. Students are familiar with washing or bathing, making the concept easier to comprehend. At this age, your students probably have an understanding of the act of water baptism but may not be as familiar with the purposes of it. They may see it as a ritual that is always done for new believers, unaware of its significance. It is, therefore, very important to emphasize the importance of water baptism in our faith and how water baptism is not just a ritual, but also proof of the love of Jesus Christ for us.



Opener

5 Minutes

From a Dirty Robe to a White Robe

1. On a whiteboard, draw a picture of a white robe or shirt, and then draw a second one with spots or stains on it.
2. Ask the students which one they would wear and why.
3. Explain that before baptism, we are wearing the robe that is spotted and dirty because of the sins that we have. However, after baptism, those spots are cleansed, and our robe becomes white.
4. In today's lesson, we will learn about the biblical method of water baptism and its importance in our faith. Lastly, we will focus on how we should live of our life after we have been baptized.



Vocabulary

sacrament: an important action that is related to our salvation

remission: forgiveness of our sins

baptist: an individual who performs water baptisms



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Today, we are going to learn about the Sacrament of Water Baptism and its importance. However, let us first understand what a sacrament is. What is a sacrament? [Wait for students to respond.]

What is a sacrament?

There are three sacraments: Water Baptism, Footwashing, and Holy Communion. These three are considered sacraments because in the Bible, Jesus Christ set the example for us to do these and even commanded us to do them. They are not only symbolic actions for what Christ has done for us but actions that are directly related to our salvation. This means that in order for us to enter into heaven, we need to do them!

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. If needed, provide a word bank to help students unscramble the words. Students may work on the worksheet independently first and then go over the answers, or you may go over each question as a class.

1. *Full Immersion* (Mk 1:9-10)

From the verse, we can see that Jesus Christ Himself came up out of the water. This means that He had to be in the water in the first place. Therefore, our whole body has to be immersed in the water, not just part of our body. Sprinkling water over our entire body is not biblically correct, either. Also, since water baptism signifies the death and burial of Christ, it is important to remember that when a person is buried, the whole body is buried, not just part of the body.

2. *In the name of Jesus Christ* (Ac 2:38)

We are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because He has commands us to do so! Acts 4:12 states that it is only through Jesus' name that we can be saved.

3. *Head Bowed Down* (Jn 19:30; Rom 6:5)

Since we are baptized in the likeness of Jesus Christ's death, we need to look at what Jesus Christ did on the cross in His last moment. In John 19:30, it specifically

mentions that Jesus Christ bowed His head, and then gave up His spirit. Today, we are baptized in the same way, with our heads bowed down.

4. *Living Water* (Mic 7:19)

Living water refers to water that is found in nature, such as rivers, oceans, and lakes. Jesus Himself was baptized in the Jordan River! In the Bible, it does not record any instances where baptism took place in a man-made pool or water source. Therefore, when we perform water baptism today, we do so in nearby oceans or rivers.

5. *Holy Spirit* (Jn 20:21-22)

The Holy Spirit must be present at the water baptism in order for it to be effective. Therefore, the baptist must have the Holy Spirit. Today, the person who serves as the baptist is usually a minister or elder who has been sent by the church.

6. *The person being baptized must believe* (Ac 18:8)

The person receiving baptism has to believe that the water baptism will wash away their sins. In Acts 2:38, Peter tells the people that the first thing they need to do is repent! This means that the first thing we have to do before we are baptized is to have a repentant heart. After baptism, it is important that the newly baptized members have the determination to live a holy life (Heb 6:4-8). In our whole life we can only be baptized once, just like how we can only be born once!

From these verses, we can now see how important it is for us to be baptized the biblical way. It is essential for all of these elements to be present during baptism in order for the baptism to be effective in washing away our sins.

Now that we know how baptism is performed according to the Bible, let us look at the purposes of water baptism.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2. Have students complete each box as you go over each purpose.

Why Do We Need To Be Baptized?

1. *To become a child of God* (Gal 4:4-5)

Through baptism, we become the children of God. This

is a precious status that God gives to us. Before baptism, we were part of the darkness, but when we are baptized we become children of light (Eph 5:8). God has saved us from the darkness of sin, and we are now able to live in the light with the Lord.

2. *To put on Jesus Christ* (Gal 3:27)

After baptism, we become a new person. God washes away our sins and gives us a new robe to wear. This robe shows that we now belong to Jesus Christ, which means we have to live a life that is pure and holy.

3. *To enter into the kingdom of heaven* (Jn 3:5)

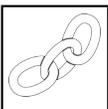
In John 3:5, Jesus Christ says that we have to be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven. To be born of water means to be baptized and to be born of the Spirit means to receive the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we have to both be baptized and receive the promised Holy Spirit to be able to go to heaven and receive salvation!

4. *For the remission of sins* (Ac 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:12)

All of us have sin because we were born with it (Ps 51:5). These sins came from when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were cast out of the garden of Eden. As their descendants, we have inherited their sin, and in addition, we have our own sins, which are the wrongs we have committed against God.

How Is Water Baptism Able to Wash Away Our Sins?

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, His blood was shed for us and became the payment for our sins. In John 19:34-35, John witnessed a miracle of seeing blood and water come out of the side of Jesus Christ when a soldier pierced His side with a spear. Through this miracle, we know that the cleansing effect of baptism involves water and the Spirit, the blood of Jesus Christ that flowed from the cross. For water baptism to be effective, there needs to be the water, blood, and the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 5:6-8). Water and blood come together during water baptism, and the Holy Spirit is the witness that allows this to happen. So, when a person is baptized in water, they are actually being baptized in the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ is in the water during baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit, which makes the water baptism effective for the removal of sin.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Sacrament of Water Baptism

The Sacrament of Water Baptism is an important belief because it is how we are reborn in the spirit to be a child of God. Through Water Baptism, this is a new status that we receive from the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is crucial for us to remember and understand how precious it is that we have been purchased by his sacrifice, so that we can live a life that shines the glory of Him.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Short Answer

- What are the three sacraments?
 - Water Baptism
 - Footwashing
 - Holy Communion
- Why do we need to be baptized?
 - For the remission of sins
 - To become a child of God
 - To put on Jesus Christ
 - To enter the kingdom of heaven
- What are the three requirements for a person to receive baptism?
 - Have faith
 - Have a repentant heart
 - Have the determination to live a holy life



Life Application

10 Minutes

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PUT ON CHRIST?

After we are baptized, we have put on Christ; in other words, we have clothed ourselves with Him. We no longer live our old life, but a new one. This means that we have to walk with Him every day. Let us look at the different ways we can walk with our precious Savior! [Explain the points below, and then hand out the Life Application worksheet.]

1. Walk with Humility

"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" (1 Peter 5:5)

What do you think it looks like to walk with humility? [Wait for students to respond.]

- Not talking back to parents or teachers
- Serving others and putting the needs of others ahead of our own
- Able to take criticism

While Jesus Christ was on earth, He lived a life of humility and submission to God. He often departed from the crowd after He had performed a great miracle, and when the people tried to make Him king, He went up to the mountain alone (Jn 6:15).

2. Walk in Obedience to His Commandments

"This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it." (2 John 1:6)

We have to walk according to His commandments and make sure that we follow what is written in the Bible.

In Philippians 2:8, it tells us that Jesus Christ was obedient even to the point of death. He knew that He would have to experience great suffering on the cross. However, He remained obedient to God.

3. Walk with Power from the Holy Spirit

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

God has given us the precious Holy Spirit so that we will be able to have power to overcome our temptations and power to serve Him. Jesus Christ was filled with the power of God, and that is why He was able to perform so many miracles and to overcome temptation from Satan in the wilderness.



Activity

Defending the Truth

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the importance of defending the true method of water baptism.

Students will be presented with four different statements. They will have to identify and cross out the parts of the statements that are incorrect and write the correction on the line. Lastly, they will explain why the statement is incorrect.

Statement 1: We can be baptized anywhere as long as there is water, such as in a pool or a bathtub.

Correction: We can be baptized anywhere as long as there is natural living water.

Why? Nowhere in the Bible does it record a person being baptized in a pool or bathtub. (Mic 7:19; Mat 3:13; Jn 3:23)

Statement 2: Water baptism has no purpose and is just a symbolic act that shows that we believe in Jesus Christ.

Correction: Water baptism is for the remission of sins and is not just a symbolic act that shows that we believe in Jesus Christ.

Why? In the Bible, it states very clearly that baptism is for the remission of sins and that it is necessary for salvation. (Ac 2:38)

Statement 3: We baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Correction: We baptize in the name of Jesus Christ.

Why? The name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ, so we baptize in the name of Jesus Christ. It is only through His name that we can be saved. (Ac 2:38; 4:12)

Statement 4: Water Baptism is not important because it has nothing to do with salvation. We are saved by our faith alone.

Correction: Water Baptism is important for our salvation.

Why? Receiving water baptism is a commandment of Jesus Christ. Even though having faith is important, we need to put our faith into practice by following the commands of Jesus. (Jas 2:14; Mk 16:16)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. Answers may vary.

LOOKING AT WATER BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE



Instructions: Read the following verses and unscramble the words. Then write a brief explanation about how we should be baptized according to the verse. The first one has been done for you.

| | Method | Explanation |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 Mark 1:9-10 | L U F L M S N I O E R M I | When we are baptized, our body has to be immersed in the water. |
| 2 Acts 2:38 | In the name of... S S J U E C H S T I R | |
| 3 John 19:30; Romans 6:50 | D A E H B W E O D N W D O | |
| 4 Micah 7:19 | L I G N I V R W A E T | |
| 5 John 20:21-22 | Y O H L P I R I S T | |
| 6 Acts 18:8 | The person being baptized must... L E B I E E V | |



The Purposes of Water Baptism

Instructions: Fill in the blanks. In the boxes, draw a picture that illustrates each statement.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>1 Be a _____ of God</p> | <p>Put on _____</p> <p>2</p> |
| <p>We need to be baptized because...</p> | |
| <p>3 To enter the kingdom of _____</p> | <p>_____ of sins</p> <p>4</p> |

What makes water baptism effective?

The _____ of Jesus Christ is in the water during baptism through the power of the _____. This makes water baptism effective in washing away our sins.

Walking on the Path with Christ

Instructions: Read each scenario and discuss how the student can walk with God.

Walking in Humility

Sue hated spending time with her mom because every time they talked, they would end up arguing with each other. They would often fight over everything. Sue was so tired of her mother's nagging and being ordered around like a child. Just last night, her mother was telling her that the music she was listening to wasn't suitable for a Christian. How would her mother know what was good for her? As long as she wasn't committing any major sins, she thought she should be all right.



1. How isn't Sue walking in humility?

2. What are some actions that Sue can take to better the relationship with her mother?

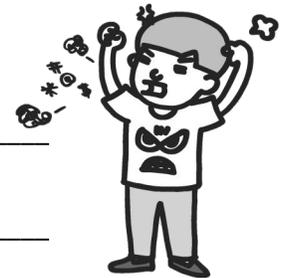


Walking in Obedience

Tim went to church every Saturday, so he knew all about the teachings in the Bible. He would memorize the memory verse for the week, and for most of the weeks, he would get it almost perfectly! What most people didn't know about Tim was that, at school, he would use the same mouth to say words that a Christian shouldn't say. He knew it was wrong to say bad words, and he even knew the verses in the Bible that told him he shouldn't be saying these words. However, all his friends were saying it, and he didn't want to feel left out. He was only saying these words; he didn't really mean any of them in his heart. How was that wrong?

1. How isn't Tim walking in obedience?

2. What advice would you give to Tim to help him overcome his problem?

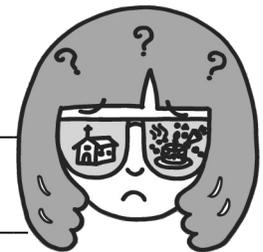


Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Jean wasn't a shy person, but she was often unwilling to let her school friends know that she was a Christian. She didn't want them to think she was weird and not cool. One day, one of Jean's friends invited her to her birthday party, but it was going to be on a Saturday. Jean knew that she should tell her friend that she has church that day, but she really lacked the confidence. What if her friends didn't want to hang out with her after she told them she had to go to church? She couldn't risk it.

1. How isn't Jean walking in the power of the Holy Spirit?

2. What advice would you give to Jean to help her overcome her problem?



"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.

By this we know that we are in Him.

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

(1 John 2:5-6)

Instructions: Rewrite the correct statement below each incorrect statement and write down the reason why it is incorrect.

Statement 1

We can be baptized anywhere as long as there is water, such as in a pool or a bathtub.

Why? (Micah 7:19, Matthew 3:13, John 3:23)

Statement 2

Water baptism has no purpose and is just a symbolic act that shows that we believe in Jesus Christ.

Why? (Acts 2:38)

Statement 3

We baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Why? (Acts 2:38; 4:12)

Statement 4

Water Baptism is not important because it has nothing to do with our salvation. We are saved by our faith alone.

Why? (James 2:14; Mark 16:16)

"Salvation?"

Defending
the
Truth



E2 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 5—The Sacrament of Water Baptism

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Acts 2:38**)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : Which of the following is NOT a sacrament?
 - a. Water Baptism
 - b. Holy Sabbath
 - c. Holy Communion
 - d. Footwashing
2. _____ : The purpose of water baptism is _____.
 - a. For the remission of sins
 - b. To receive the blood and body of Christ
 - c. To have a part with Jesus
 - d. To have faith
3. _____ : The person being baptized must _____.
 - a. Have the Holy Spirit
 - b. Have a repentant heart
 - c. Attend all weekday services
 - d. Read the entire Bible once
4. _____ : Which of the following is part of the correct water baptism?
 - a. Bowing the head
 - b. Baptizing in a pool or bathtub
 - c. Sprinkling water on your head
 - d. Clapping your hands

Short Answer

5. Give three examples of how you should live your life after receiving water baptism.

