

LESSON 8

THE SACRAMENT OF WATER BAPTISM

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Baptism in the Bible

I. Old Testament

Prophecies

- God will cast our sins into the depths of the sea (Mic 7:19).
- God will open a fountain for the house of David to cleanse them from their sins (Zech 13:1).

Prefigurations

- Noah and his family were saved during the flood (1 Pet 3:20-21; Gen 7:17-20).
- The people crossed through the Red Sea and were freed from Pharaoh and slavery in Egypt (1 Cor 10:1-2).
- Namaan was cleansed of his leprosy by bathing in the Jordan River (2 Kgs 5:1-14).
- Gentiles had to be circumcised to be part of God's people (Gen 17:12-14).
- The Israelites washed their clothes and took a bath after they were defiled (Lev 15:5-13).

II. New Testament

- John baptized people for the remission of sins. His baptism could not forgive sins because the Lord Jesus had not died and shed His blood yet (Jn 3:23; Ac 19:4-5).
- Jesus Christ was baptized to serve as an example for us (Mt 3:13-16). Jesus commanded His disciples to perform baptism (Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15-16).
- The disciples obeyed the Lord's instructions by baptizing people (Ac 2:41; 8:12, 35-36; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:25-33; 18:8; 19:5).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The concept of baptism is abstract and difficult for children to grasp. However, by using the example of something familiar, such as bath time, children will have a basic understanding of the concept. Ask the students what they like would do if they got something very dirty or sticky on themselves. The likely answer would be to wash off or take a nice bath. Explain to the students that while water and soap get rid of all the filth on our body, they are not effective in getting rid of the filth in our heart. Getting rid of the sins and filth in our heart requires not only water, but also the blood of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 3:1-17; John 19:10-35;
Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:18-19;
1 John 5:6-8

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. Jesus came in the flesh and shed His blood to save mankind.
2. Through water baptism, the blood of Jesus washes away our sins.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that the blood of Jesus washes away our sins through water baptism.
2. To learn the biblical way of baptism.

MEMORY VERSE

"And now why are you waiting?
Arise and be baptized, and wash
away your sins."

(Acts 22:16a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. In the beginning, sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Afterward, we could no longer be Your children. But Lord Jesus, You saw how pitiful we were. You came to earth to suffer on the cross and shed Your precious blood for us. During water baptism, Your blood washes away our sins and we are cleansed and made whole again. We can once again come before You and be Your children. This is an amazing blessing! Thank You, Lord Jesus, for choosing us. May all glory be unto the Lord Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

sin: something that we do, or say, or think that is wrong in God's sight
original sin: the sin passed down to all mankind from Adam and Eve
immersed: to be completely covered

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about a cupbearer named Nehemiah. What did Nehemiah do? (He returned to Jerusalem to help rebuild Jerusalem's broken walls.) Before Nehemiah left, he had to ask the king for permission to leave. As he was about to ask the king for permission, Nehemiah prayed to God first. This was not the first and only time Nehemiah prayed to God. We learned that Nehemiah frequently prayed to and relied on God. The king granted Nehemiah's request and allowed him to travel to Jerusalem with some people. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah scouted around and saw how Jerusalem's walls were in a state of disrepair. He gathered all the people together, and they all determined to rebuild the walls. While they were rebuilding, they met with resistance from people who did not want the walls to be fixed. However, instead of succumbing to their taunts and mockeries, Nehemiah and the others persevered. After fifty-two days, they finally completed rebuilding the walls. By now, they were physically tired and exhausted, but their work had been done for the glory of God. Even their enemies could see that it was God who had helped them accomplish this great feat. We learned that it is important to rely on God's power in all things, and that we should pray and persevere whenever we encounter hardships.

BIBLE STORY

Teaching Ideas

Prepare the following before class:

- Baptism videos and/or photos
- Baptism testimonies
- An old T-shirt to illustrate how sin defiles a person
- A new, white T-shirt to illustrate the new and holy life after baptism

Today our lesson is on water baptism. What is water baptism? Have you seen someone get baptized before? What was the baptism like? [Allow students to share.]

Baptism was also performed during Jesus' time. Later, the apostles also performed baptism.

I. Who Was Baptized?

Let's turn to the following Bible verses to find out who was baptized.

[Hand out Worksheet #1 and ask the students to complete Part I. Then go over the answers with them after they have finished.]

Part I Answers

1. Matthew 3:13-16 – The Lord Jesus
2. Acts 8:36-38 – The Ethiopian Eunuch
3. Acts 9:17-18 – The Apostle Paul (Saul)
4. Acts 2:41 - The three thousand on the Day of Pentecost

5. Acts 10:24, 27, 47-48 – Cornelius, his family, and friends

II. Why Do I Need to Be Baptized?

[Ask students to continue filling out Worksheet #1 as you explain each point. Ask students to fill in the significance of each statement.]

1. To Have Our Sins Washed Away

We are all born with sin. Sins are the things we do, say, or think that are wrong in God's eyes. Sins make God very unhappy. Originally, man was holy like God. [Have a student volunteer to wear the old T-shirt.] We were clean, beautiful, and pure. But Adam and Eve sinned, and as a result, man was no longer holy. [Write "SIN" all over the T-shirt.] Since we are the descendants of Adam and Eve, we have inherited their sins. This is called original sin. In addition to original sin, we have our own sins from the wrongs we commit in our lives. What kind of sins do we commit? [Have students respond. Write their responses on the T-shirt.] Lying, fighting, being unkind, and disobeying our parents are all sins, which displease God. The more we sin, the filthier we become, which makes it difficult to remove sin. Sins push us away from God.

Who can erase and save us from our sins? Let's turn to Ephesians 1:7.

There is only one Person who is sinless, and thus,

capable of saving us from our sins. He is our Lord Jesus Christ. Because God loved mankind so much, He sent His only son, the Lord Jesus, to die on the cross and shed His blood for us. Only the blood of the Lord Jesus can remove our sins.

Today, the blood of the Lord Jesus can be found in the water during water baptism. Although we are not able to see the blood, we believe it is present through our faith. There are testimonies of people who had their spiritual eyes opened by God and saw the blood of Jesus in the water. This proves that the water baptism in the True Jesus Church is real and correct. The blood of Jesus is present to cleanse us of our sins.

2. To Become Children of God

Man was originally God's precious child. But when we disobeyed God, we became sinful and unholy. God no longer recognized us as His children. Now, Satan had become the father of man. But God is extremely merciful. He opened a way for us to return to Him. When a person receives baptism, the blood of Jesus washes away all their sins. After baptism, a person no longer belongs to Satan, but returns to God. Once again, God is our Father and we are His children.

3. To Be Saved

Do you want to go to heaven? Find out how we can enter heaven by reading John 3:5. This verse tells us that we must be baptized to be able to enter heaven. Baptism washes away our sins and allows us to see God. In order to enter heaven, we must be spotless and holy like our heavenly Father.

4. To Put On Christ

During baptism, our sins are washed away, and we become a new person. God gives us a new robe: a holy and pure white robe. [Ask the volunteer to remove the dirty T-shirt and put on the clean T-shirt.] When God gives us this new robe, we belong to Christ and must keep the robe clean. This means we have to imitate our heavenly Father and do what is right.

Part II Answers

- "Jesus washed my sins away."
- "I am now a child of God."
- "I can go to heaven in future."
- "I have to stay holy like the Lord Jesus."

III. How Do I Get Baptized?

We are now going to watch a video of a baptism (show photos if no video is available).

What was happening during the baptism? Describe how the person in the video/photo was baptized. [As student share their answers, write them up on the board.]

The method in which the person was baptized is in accordance with the Bible. If a baptism is even slightly different from the baptism recorded in the Bible, the baptism cannot wash away our sins. Thus, it is important to perform baptism exactly as it is recorded in the Bible.

[Hand out Worksheet #2 and go over the correct method of baptism with the students. Ask students to fill in the blanks and the speech bubble.]

Method of Water Baptism

- Baptism must be performed in **natural living water**. Living water is found in natural bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans. Jesus and His disciples received and performed baptism in natural water (Mk 1:9-10; Ac 8:36-38). Pools and tubs are not living water, thus we cannot use them for baptism.
- We must be **fully immersed** in the water. Our entire body, including our head, needs to be completely covered in water.
- The baptism must be performed **in the name of Jesus Christ** (Ac 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5). God's name is Jesus, and He came into the world to shed His blood so that our sins could be forgiven. There is no other name that has the power to forgive sins (Ac 4:12; 10:43; 22:16).
- The person being baptized must **bow his head**. When a person bows his head, he has the likeness of Jesus' death (Rom 6:5). The Bible describes that Jesus bowed His head at His death (Jn 19:30).
- The person performing the baptism must have **received correct water baptism** (Ac 2:38). In the True Jesus Church, it is the ministers and pastors who baptize people.
- The person performing the baptism must have the **Holy Spirit**. In order for the baptism to be effective, the Holy Spirit must be present in the baptism (1 Jn 5:8).

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Whose baptisms were recorded in the Acts of the Apostles?** The Ethiopian Eunuch; Cornelius and his friends and family; Paul/Saul; the three thousand on the Day of Pentecost.
2. **Why do we need to get baptized?**
 - a. To have our sins washed away
 - b. To become children of God
 - c. To be saved
 - d. To put on Christ
3. **What are the requirements of the biblical water baptism?**
 - a. Performed in natural living water
 - b. Person receiving baptism must be fully immersed in the water
 - c. Person receiving baptism must bow their head
 - d. Must be performed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - e. Person performing baptism must have received the correct baptism
 - f. Person performing baptism must have the Holy Spirit

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins.” (Acts 22:16a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; water baptism is necessary.
3. False; only Jesus can save us from sin.
4. True
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

A White Robe

During baptism, God gives each of us a new, white robe. The white robe represents our souls. After baptism, our souls are pure and holy. We must be determined to keep ourselves holy in all that we say, do, or think.

However, human beings are weak. Regardless of how hard we try, we still commit sins. Can we be baptized again? No. We can only receive baptism once. If that is the case, how can we keep ourselves pure and holy?

Instructions

1. Trace and cut out a diagram of a robe from white construction paper. Prepare one robe for each student.
2. Pass out the robes to the students.
3. Ask the students, “How can we keep our robes clean and white?” and discuss their answers with the class.
4. Have each student write their final answer on their robe.
5. Collect the robes and post them up.

Discuss the following verses with the students:

1. Confess our sins in prayer (1 Jn 1:9)

After baptism, we must continually examine ourselves to see if we have sinned. If we have, then we must confess our sins to Jesus in prayer. Jesus is faithful and will forgive us.

2. Read the Bible daily (Eph 5:26)

The word of God cleanses and purifies our hearts. It teaches us the right way.

3. Be Like the Lord Jesus (Eph 4:24)

Our Lord Jesus is righteous and holy. Thus, we must follow His example in doing what is right. We must keep our minds and hearts focused on the Lord Jesus and have Him serve as our example.

Forever Thankful

Water baptism is a precious gift given to us by God. Through baptism, our sins are forgiven. We can then enter heaven and be with our Lord Jesus forever. Therefore, we must thank and praise the Lord Jesus every day for giving us such a priceless gift through His death and blood.

[Read the following testimony with or to your students, and answer the review questions that follow.]

Testimony

In Taiwan, there was a Sister Chen who came to True Jesus Church to learn more about the truth. One day during service, Sis. Chen received the Holy Spirit. After being more familiar with the truth, she was encouraged by everyone to receive baptism. But, Sis. Chen said that she already believed in the Lord Jesus, obeyed the Ten Commandments, kept the Sabbath, and received the Holy Spirit. She felt that she did not need to be baptized, because believed that her baptism from another church was good enough. She continued to refuse baptism, even after our church members explained that the baptism had to be performed correctly in order to be able to wash away her sins.

Not long afterwards, the church held their Spiritual Convocation. She attended service and went to the front of the chapel to pray. During the prayer, the ministers noticed something was wrong with her. She stopped speaking in tongue and clasped her hands so tightly that they turned purple. Her face became pale, and she looked terrified and in great pain. The pastors saw this and walked to her to lay hands on her and pray for God to help and deliver her.

As soon as the prayer ended, Sis. Chen walked quickly to the pastor. "Pastor, I want to be baptized! Please baptize me! No matter what, I must be baptized!" she exclaimed. The preacher asked her why she had suddenly changed her mind. Sis. Chen then told him what had happened during the prayer.

She said that at the beginning of her prayer, she felt very joyful. She felt like she was lying comfortably in the bosom of Jesus, as if she were on a very soft bed made of feathers. Suddenly, a dark hand from below came up and quickly pulled her body downwards. She was so scared that she grasped her own hands tightly together. She was no longer able to speak in tongue either.

She felt her body being pulled further and further down until she came to a very cold place. It was a deep and dark pit. Her temperature dropped, her teeth chattered, and her face turned pale. She felt that there were many demons surrounding her.

The devil then spoke to her, "You and I belong to the same team."

"Impossible!" Sis. Chen said. "I am not on your team. I have nothing to do with you! I believe in Jesus and have the Holy Spirit."

"You may have the Holy Spirit, but you are not baptized. If you aren't baptized, you will end up here with me. We will suffer together because you have not been washed by the blood of Jesus."

"Jesus, save me! I want to be baptized!" Sis. Chen wanted to shout, but only strange sounds came out of her mouth. She did not wish to spend eternity with Satan.

Suddenly, above her a warm, gentle, and white hand reached down and lifted her out of the dark pit. As she was lifted out of the pit, she heard God say to her, "Jesus died and shed His blood for your sins. If you are willing to accept

baptism, who will dare to accuse you?" (Rom 8:31-39). She was so joyful and felt that she had returned to the bosom of the Lord Jesus.

Sis. Chen realized then that without baptism she couldn't be saved, even if she followed every commandment and teaching in the Bible for the next 30 years. Acts 2:38 reminded her that she needed water baptism to wash away her sins. Soon after, Sis. Chen received the correct water baptism in the True Jesus Church.

Review

1. To sin is to disobey God's commands. (True)
2. Jesus' blood has the power to wash away our sins. (True)
3. As long as I love God, I do not need to be baptized. (False)
4. We can be baptized anywhere, including in a pool or tub. (False)
5. After we are baptized, we become God's children. (True)
6. After baptism, we must keep ourselves holy. (True)
7. We should not get our hair wet during baptism. (False)
8. We raise our heads during baptism. (False)

ACTIVITY

1

Oh, That Day

Objective: To allow students to remember the day they received baptism through a song.

This is a touching song that is sung by members in Africa. It reminds us to forever remember that precious day when Jesus washed our sins away!

Teach the students the following song. As they become familiar with it, use drums or egg shakers as an accompaniment.

Oh, That Day

African Hymn

Voice

Oh, that day, I re - mem - ber - that day. I will

ne-ver for-get that day, when Je-sus washed mysins a - way, when Je-sus

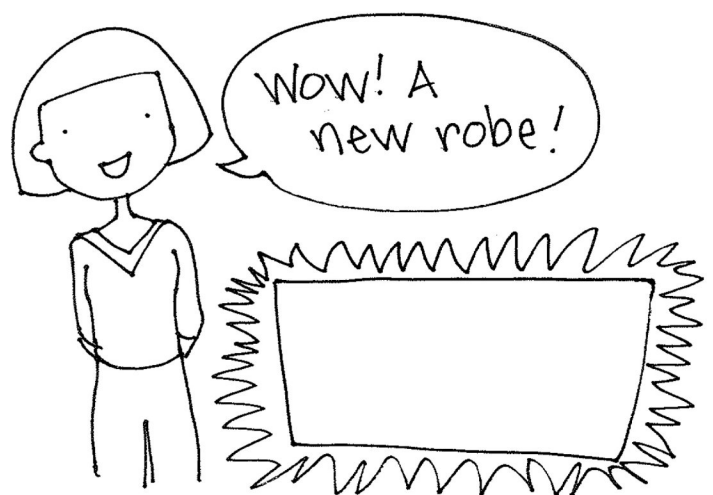
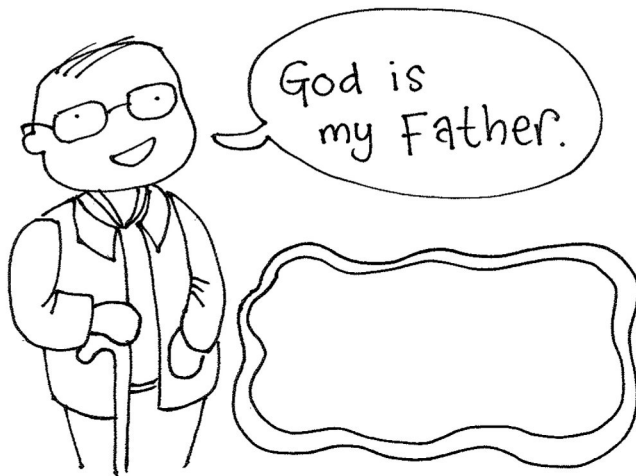
washed my sins a - way.

I. Who Received Baptism?

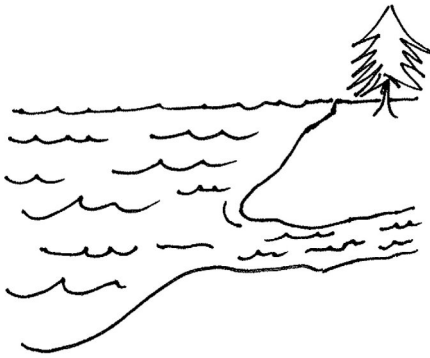
Turn to the following Bible verses to find out who received baptism.

1. Matthew 3:13-16 _____
2. Acts 8:36-38 _____
3. Acts 9:17-18 _____
4. Acts 2:41 _____
5. Acts 10:24, 27, 47-48 _____

II. Why Do I Need to Be Baptized?



How Do I Get Baptized?



a. Baptism must be performed in _____. Living water is found in natural bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans. Jesus and His disciples received and performed baptism in natural water (Mk 1:9-10; Ac 8:36-38). Pools and tubs are not living water, thus we cannot use them for baptism.

b. We must be _____ in the water. Our entire body, including our head, needs to be completely covered in water.



c. The baptism must be performed _____ (Ac 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5). God's name is Jesus, and He came into the world to shed His blood so that our sins could be forgiven. There is no other name that has the power to forgive sins (Ac 4:12; 10:43; 22:16).

d. The person being baptized must _____. When a person bows his head, he has the likeness of Jesus' death (Rom 6:5). The Bible describes that Jesus bowed His head at His death (Jn 19:30).



e. The person performing the baptism must have _____ (Ac 2:38). In the True Jesus Church, it is the ministers and pastors who baptize people.

f. The person performing the baptism must have the _____. In order for the baptism to be effective, the Holy Spirit must be present in the baptism (1 Jn 5:8).

E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 8—The Sacrament of Water Baptism

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. Jesus came in the flesh and shed His blood to save mankind.
2. Through water baptism, the blood of Jesus washes away our sins.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn that the blood of Jesus washes away our sins through water baptism.
2. To learn the biblical way of baptism.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bible Reading | | | | | | | |
| Prayer | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 22:16a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. To sin is to disobey God's commands. _____
2. As long as I love God, I do not need to get baptized. _____
3. Only our parents can save us from sin. _____
4. Jesus' blood has the power to forgive sins. _____

Multiple Choice

5. ____ : Which of these is not part of the correct water baptism?
 - a. Raising your head
 - b. Baptizing in living water
 - c. Baptizing in the name of the Lord Jesus
6. ____ : Which of these is part of the correct water baptism?
 - a. Clapping your hands
 - b. Baptizing in a pool or tub
 - c. Baptizing in the name of the Lord Jesus
7. ____ : After baptism, God gives us _____.
 - a. A large button that says, "I am a child of God."
 - b. A new, white robe, which signifies that we belong to Jesus Christ and must keep ourselves holy
 - c. A new pair of shoes
8. ____ : After our sins are washed away, _____.
 - a. We belong to God
 - b. We belong to Satan
 - c. We belong to our parents

Life Application

9. Since Jesus died and shed His blood to remove your sins, what will you do to thank the Lord Jesus for this amazing gift?

10. How will you keep your robe pure and white?

