

Reality – Bible Lesson for May 17, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

New Testament Section One: The Life of Jesus Lesson 3: Christ's Baptism

- 1. Lesson: Christ's Baptism**
- 2. Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34
- 3. Memory Verse:** "The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father." – John 1:14a
- 4. Mission Story:** Brother Andrew – Part 2
- 5. Bible Skills:** Next week
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity – Object Lesson: Option #1** - one or two lemons; Q-tip or paint brush; white paper; source of heat (table lamp or hair dryer) **Option #2** – white paper; white crayon; watercolor; water

Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGMCA_aUY4c

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88JYcN2-FiQ>

1. Prayer and Welcome Activity: Pray with your children – then introduce one of the following object lessons:

Option #1:

Introduction

The Gospel of John tells us that when Jesus came to be baptized, John was confused. He thought he should be baptized by Jesus and not the other way around. He did not see the hidden message that Jesus understood. That message was that Jesus' baptism was the beginning of His service to His Father as one who would die for the sins of the world. And God the Father blessed the baptism and sent God the Spirit to empower it. When we think we don't know the answers to problems of faith and commitment, know that we can't always see the hidden message.

Instructions

1. Use whole lemons to squeeze juice into a small bowl.
2. Dip an artist's brush or a Q-tip into the lemon juice.

3. When the bristles of the brush or the Q-tip are saturated, use the brush or Q-tip to write a message on white paper. Keep dipping the brush as needed to complete the message.
4. Wait several minutes for the paper to dry. When it's dry, the message will disappear.
5. After the message is dry, expose the paper to a source of heat. The paper can be held under a lit light bulb or a blow dryer.
6. After a short time of being exposed to heat, the message will begin to darken to a pale brown color revealing what the message is!

Explanation: Lemon juice is acidic, and the acid remains in the paper after the lemon juice has dried. When the paper is held near a source of heat, the acidic parts of the paper will slightly burn or turn brown before the rest of the paper does. As soon as the message appears take the paper away from the heat, so the paper doesn't burn.

Option #2:

In advance, have a piece of paper with a writing or drawing in white crayon. Make sure you have pushed down hard on the crayon so that you get enough wax on the paper. This should be invisible to the kids...take some watercolor and paint over the paper, watching as the crayon becomes noticeable. Now, point out that the crayon was always there. The water did not make it there but revealed what it was. Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. In being baptized, He pleased God the father and publicly declared who He was, revealing that special nature and preparing Him for His ministry.

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

Last week our Bible story was about the time when Jesus visited the temple in Jerusalem - when He was twelve years old. In our story, today, about 18 years have passed since that time. Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth with his mother, Mary and Joseph. God had chosen Joseph, a carpenter, to be Jesus' earthly father. God had sent Jesus to earth to do His very special ministry. Jesus was about 30 years old when the time came for Him to begin that ministry. **(Luke 3:23)**

Jesus had a cousin, named John, who was born a few months before Him. John was living in the desert country where he had grown up. God had a special purpose for John's life. He was to be the forerunner for Jesus. That meant he was going before Jesus to announce His coming and prepare the way for Him. He was teaching people that they needed God in their lives, so they would be ready to hear from Jesus. John was the last of the Old Covenant prophets.

God had sent John to live in the wilderness. He led a very simple life. **Matthew 3:4** reads, "John's clothes were made out of camel's hair. He had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey." When John announced that the Kingdom of God was at hand, he meant that God's rule was about to come into the world through the Messiah. John continued to tell the people that God was about to do something.

It had been over 400 years and now God was moving. The people of that day needed to turn from living in their sinful ways to living in God's way. John found them in their wilderness and told them they needed to repent. Do you remember what "repent" means? Repentance is when we see our sin as God does, have sorrow for it, and turn away from it. It means to change direction and choose God's way instead of our way. **Acts 3:19** reminds us that God wants us to repent of our sins, because He loves us.

John had probably been living in the desert for about ten years. His ministry was to get the people to see their sin and repent, so they would be ready to receive the salvation of Jesus. John was a powerful speaker and people came to hear him in large groups and be baptized in the Jordan River.

When people truly repented of their sins, John would baptize them. Baptism was a way for them to say outwardly that they had turned away from their sins. It is a way of showing others that you believe in God and you want to live your life the way that God wants you to live. When you truly repent, you become a different person than you were before.

At that time Jesus had not yet started his ministry. He had been working as a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. The people were still waiting for the Messiah to be revealed: they didn't know it was Jesus! Even John didn't know who it was, but God had given John a special sign to look for. God told John that he would see God's Spirit descend on someone, and that man would be the promised Messiah.

When people heard John talk, some thought that he might be the Messiah. John set them straight right away. He told them his message was repentance and he told them that Christ was coming. **(Luke 3:15-17)** John baptized with water but Jesus is the Son of God – He would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and change us completely into a new person.

All four Gospels tell the story of the baptism of Jesus. Baptism was the first thing Jesus did when He started His ministry. It is also the last thing He talked about before going up to Heaven. **(Matthew 28:19-20)** The Gospel writers tell us that each member of the Godhead was involved in the ministry of Jesus on earth and in His baptism. The Son was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and the Father spoke His approval. Only Luke, however, stated that Jesus was praying, and Heaven was opened – God was breaking into human history with the declaration that Jesus is His Son. **(Luke 3:21-22)** God came down upon Jesus at His baptism to show that Jesus was His provision to draw us back close to Him.

Mark tells the story of the baptism of Jesus so beautifully – we're going to read it out loud. I'm going to give each of you a verse to read from **Mark 1:1-11**. Jesus was not baptized because He needed to repent. Jesus never sinned. He was baptized to identify with us and show us that baptism is important. When Jesus came to be baptized, John didn't know what to say. He told Jesus He should be baptizing him. We are also going to take turns reading **John 1:29-34**.

Jesus wanted John to baptize Him to fulfill all righteousness. John agreed and baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, John saw something incredible. He saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove. Then he

heard the voice of God saying, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you." (**Matthew 3:13-17**) John understood what it meant – Jesus is the Messiah whom God had promised from long ago. He announced, "I have seen it happen. I am a witness that this is God's Chosen One."

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. Why did John baptize people? (To show that their sins were washed away; to show that they wanted to change.)
2. What was the important message John the Baptist preached? (Repentance)
3. What does "repent" mean? (It means to be sorry for the wrong things you are doing and stop doing them. It also means to begin doing the right thing instead of the wrong thing)
4. Why was John surprised that Jesus wanted to be baptized? (Because He didn't have any sins; John called Him the Lamb of God.)
5. What river was John standing in when Jesus saw him? (The Jordan River)
6. John said he would baptize with _____ and Jesus would baptize with the _____. (water, Holy Spirit)
7. In what image did the Holy Spirit descend from Heaven? (a dove)
8. How are the three members of the Trinity represented in this story? (Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and God the Father speaks from Heaven.)

4. Prayer/Journaling:

In advance – put the list of action words below on a piece of paper with a PENCIL. Make sure you write them exactly like the example.

Last week we talked about how to stand up for what we believe through our words. This week we will discuss how to stand for what we believe through our actions.

I have listed many action words on this paper. When I say a word that is not a positive word, please let me know and I will erase it. Ready?

Your board should look like this:

Argues	Listens	Lies
Respects	Protects	Encourages
Ignores	Helps	Makes fun of
Hits	Supports	Disobeys

What shape did you discover when we erased the negative words? Think about how your actions tell people what you believe about God.

Discuss: How does God want you to treat people? Do people want to listen to you tell about obeying God if you do not obey your parents or teachers? How can people know about God if you do not tell them? Your actions often speak louder than your words.

People see what you believe by the way you act. You can respond in positive ways to people who disagree or dislike you. Even when it's difficult to love people, you can love them because God loves them.

Pray: Dear God, please help my actions show what I believe about You. Help me to love others, even when it's hard, because I know You love them. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

5.Mission Story:

Today we will learn a second story about the missionary we studied two weeks ago - Brother Andrew...that story begins below:

Andrew crept quietly to the dormitory door and slipped out into the cool morning air. For a week he had been following the daily agenda of his tour group in Warsaw, Poland, where thousands of youth from around the world had gathered for a Youth Festival. On his application he had said he wanted to exchange ideas: They could tell him about communism, and he would tell them about Christianity.

But today was Sunday. He wanted to go to church – if he could find one. He didn't dare ask his tour guide for directions; the youth festival attendees were supposed to take part in a demonstration at the stadium. Slipping out early, he hailed a taxi and explained where he wanted to go by folding his hands and pretending to pray. Nodding his head, the taxi driver let him off in front of a Reformed church. Yes - he was told by the church members - they had freedom of religion, as long as they avoided politics and didn't criticize the government.

That evening, Andrew attended a small Baptist church with very few young people. The people were poorly dressed. But they immediately invited him to speak to them through an interpreter who spoke German. It was Andrew's first sermon behind the Iron Curtain. (The political/military barrier set up by the Soviet Union after World War II to seal itself off from contact with noncommunist areas.) Afterward the pastor said, "Thank you for being here. Sometimes we feel all alone in our struggle. It's good to know the Christians in the West haven't forgotten us." Those words haunted Andrew. "We feel all alone..." He made up his mind. As long as he could find a way to slip through the door, he would go behind the Iron Curtain and encourage the believers there in any way he could.

Again, Andrew arranged to go with a tour group to see the workings of communism, this time to Czechoslovakia. Again, he managed to slip off to visit several churches. It was too risky to ask a foreigner to speak, but he could bring "greetings" from the church in Holland. "And then if you'd like," one pastor said slyly, "you can bring greetings from Jesus Christ." Once, after his tour guide learned he had been making private excursions, Andrew was told angrily he was no longer welcome in Czechoslovakia.

In Yugoslavia, the churches were open, but the children were being taught in school that only foolish people believed those myths. Still, everywhere he went, people seemed hungry to hear the Word preached. At one service, he gave an invitation of commitment, and the entire congregation stood up! Astonished at this eagerness, Andrew outlined a plan of discipleship that included prayer and Bible reading. At this, the congregation hung their heads. There were only seven Bibles in the whole congregation.

How could believers grow without the Word of God? Now Andrew's mission grew even clearer. He would bring Bibles to any churches that needed them. Only one problem: It was illegal to bring Bibles into the countries.

On his next trip to Yugoslavia, Andrew had Bibles tucked in every nook and cranny of his suitcases and his little blue Volkswagen. "Lord," he prayed as the line of cars crept closer to the border crossing, "when You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now I pray that You will make seeing eyes blind. Do not let those guards see anything You don't want them to see."

"Do you have anything to declare?" the border guard growled. "Well, I have my wristwatch and wallet and a camera..." "Anything else?" "Only some small things." The guard shrugged and waved him through.

Again and again, Andrew smuggled Bibles across the borders of Albania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Russia as God made "seeing eyes blind." What joy and encouragement the people felt as they read God's Word for themselves in their own language.

6. Bible Skills: Next week

7. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – "The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father." – John 1:14a

Play: Well Said

Play the game with more than one child or adults play on each team. The challenge is for each team to outdo the other in saying the memory verse in a creative way. One adult will lead one team, and another adult will lead the other team. (Or have two of the kids lead.) Teams alternate saying the verse and its reference.

Example: The leader of team 1 will have his/her kids say the verse while hopping on one foot. The leader of team 2 will respond by having the kids say the verse while clapping after each word. Team 1 then says the verse while turning around in circles. Team 2 says the verse while doing the twist, and so on. There really is no winner, but the kids will have a lot of fun, and they will unknowingly memorize the verse.

8. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.