



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 19: Jesus' Example: Baptism

Scripture

Matthew 3:1-17
 Mark 1:1-11
 Luke 3:1-23
 John 1:15-34

Memory Verse

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.
 Romans 6:4 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that baptism is a symbol of what has already taken place in the life of a believer.

Understand that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we may live new lives.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

We have just finished weeks of talking about Jesus' trip to the cross, His death on that cross, and the resurrection. In our last lesson, we talked about Jesus' command to "Go into all the world." He told His disciples, "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20a NIV) What were those things that Jesus commanded? He spoke some of those commands, but many were lived out before the disciples. We will take a look at those over the next few months and see what we can apply to our own lives.

In that same command to teach, Jesus also said, "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 NIV) When Jesus first stepped out publically to begin His ministry about three years before He was crucified, He did it by being baptized. Here is how it happened.

"In those days John the Baptist came and preached in the Desert of Judea. He said, 'Turn away from your sins! The kingdom of heaven is near.'" (Matthew 3:1-2 NIV) He also told the people that One was coming after Him who would ultimately give the Holy Spirit to them, not just baptize them in water. John said about this One, "I'm not good enough to bend down and untie His sandals." (Mark 1:7b NIV) John also said that the One who was coming was more powerful than he was.

John was also baptizing in the River Jordan close to the town of Bethany. When the people were aware of their sin and admitted it, then John would baptize them. You see, God sent John to get the people ready for Jesus and His message. God even told John how he would recognize Jesus. He said, "You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." (John 1:33b NIV)

"The people were waiting. They were expecting something. They were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ." (Luke 3:15 NIV) Generation after generation of the people had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah, (or Christ). John was indeed preparing the way for Jesus; the people could hardly wait!

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests to find out who John really was, John answered them plainly. He was clear when he said, "I am not the Christ." (John 1:20b NIV) He also told them that he was not Elijah, nor was he the Prophet they had been expecting. "Then who are you," they asked? "John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, 'I'm the messenger who is calling out in the desert, "Make the way for the Lord straight.'" (Isaiah 40:30)"

Application

How about you? Are you aware of your sin? Do you believe Jesus is who He says He is? Have you chosen to follow Him? If you have not, let's talk in a few minutes.

Our memory verse says, "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

(Romans 6:4 NLT)
Baptism is a picture of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is also a symbol of what happens to us spiritually when we choose to follow Jesus. We die to sin; It no longer rules us like a slave master. We raise up to live a new life. Anyone in Christ is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

If you have chosen to follow Jesus, have you been baptized as a testimony to those around you of your decision?

Baptism doesn't save us, nor does it keep us out of hell. It is a way, though, to share your faith with others and it is an important step in your walk with the Lord.

It was during that time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. "He wanted to be baptized by John. But John tried to stop Him. He told Jesus, 'I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?'" (Matthew 3:13-14 NIV) You see, John knew there was something special about Jesus. John had been filled with the Holy Spirit of God from his mother's pregnancy.

Jesus told John to permit His baptism. It had to be this way. Jesus was carrying out God's plan through His own baptism. John agreed and baptized Jesus. He lowered Jesus into the water of the Jordan River and then lifted Him up out of the water. "At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him.'" (Matthew 3:16-17 NIV)

This was the sign God had given John. Jesus is God's Son! Because God showed this to John, he was sure of who Jesus was. Later, John said of Jesus, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NIV)

Baptism is something you do after believing in Jesus and choosing to follow Him. That belief comes when you realize that you are a sinner who deserves death. Jesus died in your place to offer eternal life instead. Was Jesus baptized because He had turned from His sin? No! Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, but He never sinned. (Hebrews 4:15) Jesus was baptized because it's what God wanted. Jesus obeyed God in every way and God was pleased with Him.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus is Tempted



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a dove. This could be a stuffed animal, origami, or even the small doves from the middle of a sand dollar.

From last week's lesson, do you remember the command that Jesus gave to "Go into all the world?" He said to preach the Good News to everyone. He also said to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave us an example of this. When He was about thirty years old, Jesus was baptized. It happened like this.

"In those days John the Baptist came and preached in the Desert of Judea. He told them to turn away from their sins! He also told the people that Someone was coming after Him who would give them the gift of the Holy Spirit. John said that the One who was coming was more powerful than he was.

John was baptizing in the River Jordan close to the town of Bethany. People came to be baptized because they knew they were sinners. You see, God sent John to get the people ready for Jesus and His message. God even told John that he would recognize Jesus. He said, "You will see the Spirit come down and remain on someone. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." (John 1:33b NIV)

It was during that time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. "He wanted to be baptized by John. But John tried to stop Him. He told Jesus, 'I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?'" (Matthew 3:13-14 NIV)

Jesus told John to baptize Him. It had to be this way. Jesus was obeying God. John agreed and baptized Jesus. He lowered Jesus into the water of the Jordan River and then lifted Him up out of the water. "At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him.'" (Matthew 3:16-17 NIV)

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Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Draw a resurrection picture. Print the verse at the bottom of the picture.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring blue gelatin cups for the snack. Talk about Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.
- Make doves from toilet paper rolls. Cover the roll in white paper and attach a head and wings.
- Make paper plate doves using half a paper plate for the wings and a plastic spoon for the head.
- Reenact the lesson.
- Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Love Lifted Me," or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the region of Judea on a map of Israel. Find the town of Bethany and the Jordan River. Then find Nazareth of Galilee to the north. Talk about the significance of each of these places to today's lesson.

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buried with Christ by
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Romans 6:4

Trace the letters.

We may

live

a new life!

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

R E H T N E S E R A Y C H D S
R A I S E D S A N O R H C E J
E A M Y D O B Y L H T R V I U
W R N E W H D T W A S I E R S
O S W E W D O O G G L S R U T
P E S I E W S A W W S T P B A
S S V T D H O R E O H B E E S
U T A H I I A N S I R Y C R C
O A D E E S E T E E F B H E H
I K C N D V T R E H T A F W R
R N L R I O B O E L W P O F I
O G U L H U L N D N E T N U S
L O Y O F G L D I M H I L L T
G A H F L E I D L O Y S O L O
M E T A D A E D E H T M O R F

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism.
And just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glorious power of the Father,
now we also may live new lives.
Romans 6:4



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And just as Christ was raised from the dead

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Romans 6:4



Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
I T J E S U S R N E E D
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V E R J O R D A T
J L A A L I V E N Y L S
H S E B A P T I Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D O V E T H I R S U S
M D I L E T E R E S E S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G G O S E Y J
P E G O A N J O H N L N

JESUS

JOHN

RIVER JORDAN

BAPTIZE

DOVE

MY SON



Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
I T J E S U S R N E E D
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V E R J O R D A T
J L A A L I V E N Y L S
H S E B A P T I Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D O V E T H I R S U S
M D I L E T E R E S E S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G G O S E Y J
P E G O A N J O H N L N

JESUS

JOHN

RIVER JORDAN

BAPTIZE

DOVE

MY SON