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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to talk about baptism. Maybe you've heard that word before or seen it happen in church but you're not quite sure what it means. Well, today we'll talk about it so you can understand what it is, why we do it, what it represents, and then you can decide if you're ready to be baptized! When a person is baptized, they are dunked in water by a pastor or someone who helped them meet Jesus. They don't do this because they like getting wet with their clothes on, they do it to be obedient to Jesus. Jesus tells us that when we put our trust in him, we should get baptized. When we trust in Jesus, we're saying "sorry" for our sins, we're inviting Jesus to live in our hearts, and then living our lives to honor him. Baptism is the symbol for this heart change. When we're dunked in the water, we're saying "See ya!" to our sins and when we come out of the water we're saying we're going to live a new life in Jesus. It's our way of announcing to our friends and family that we belong to Jesus! That's what baptism is all about. If you're ready to be baptized, talk to your parents about it today.

Big Idea

Baptism is a symbol on the outside for something that happened on the inside.

Key Question

Why should we be baptized?

Memory Verse

Romans 6:4 "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."

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
- (5 min) WARM UP: What are some of your family traditions (holidays, family outings, food)** (Tip: Maybe you make ginger bread houses at Christmas or eat the same meal on every birthday. Christians have traditions, too.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because Jesus tells us to do it.** (When Jesus tells us to do something, we should do it, right? Jesus tells us that we should get baptized once we've put our trust in him. Our baptism is a way of telling our friends and family that we love Jesus. When we explain what baptism symbolizes, we're sharing the good news of Jesus with others so they will want to know him. too.)
 - Bonus Questions:** Why should we be baptized? What do we need to do before we're baptized? **4-5th** What did Jesus do for us? Who can you share Jesus with in your life?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read 1 Peter 3:21. How does being baptized clean us? Who makes us "clean"?** (Answer: Going down into the water represents Jesus dying for us so our sins can be forgiven and washed away. Coming up out of the water represents Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. It represents our new life in Jesus where we live to honor him.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to PursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: BAPTISM RELAY

Instructions:

- Before playing, tape two lines at each end of the room. Divide the class into two teams and have each team line up behind the taped lines at one end of the room. Give each team the following items. (Swim goggles, men's swimming suit/shorts, men's t-shirt and slippers)
- When you say, "Go!", have the first kids in line put on all the items and run to the other end of the room to touch the other taped line and then back. Have the next kid in line put on the stuff. Continue the race until all the kids have had a turn. First team to complete, wins.
- If you have time, review the meaning of baptism. It's an outward symbol for something that happened on the inside. Going in the water represents when Jesus died for our sins and we are saying "see ya" to our sins. Coming out of the water represents when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter and we're saying we're living a new life in Jesus. Encourage kids to talk to their parents if they want to get baptized.

Supplies needed: Tape, 2 sets of (Swim goggles, men's swimming suit/shorts, men's t-shirt, slippers)

OPTION 2: BAPTISM CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a half of a paper plate and a Baptism template (page 5). Give each kid a brad.
- Have them color the plate blue for the water. Have them color the person. Then, have them place the person on the middle, top part of the back side of the plate and have them push the brad through the plate and person to connect together. (You may need to help kids with this).
- Then, have them glue the Big Idea and Memory verse on their plate.
- As they work, review the meaning of baptism. It's an outward symbol for something that happened on the inside. Going in the water represents when Jesus died for our sins and we are saying "see ya" to our sins. Coming out of the water represents when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter and we're saying we're living a new life in Jesus. Encourage kids to talk to their parents if they want to get baptized.
- Show the kids that the brad allows them to rotate the person down into the water and out to represent baptism!

Supplies needed: Paper plates (cut in half, one half per kid), Crayons, Baptism template (pg.5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Brads (1 per kid), Glue

Q7

BIBLE BASICS

What Is Baptism?

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What is baptism all about, and how do you know if you're ready for it? Let's answer that question for kids and parents.

Key Points:

- _____ is when Christians get dunked under water.
- Baptism might seem weird, but it's _____ for Christians.
- One of the first _____ Jesus gives to new Christians is to be baptized.
- Baptism is a symbol on the _____ for something that happens on the _____.

Memory Verse:

Romans 6:4 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.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *What are some of your family traditions (holidays, family outings, food)?*
3. *Who told us that we should get baptized? What happens when someone is baptized?*
4. *What does baptism symbolize? Have you been baptized yet?*
5. *Read 1 Peter 3:21. How does being baptized clean us? Who makes us "clean"?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

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INSIDE

Key Question

Why should we be baptized?

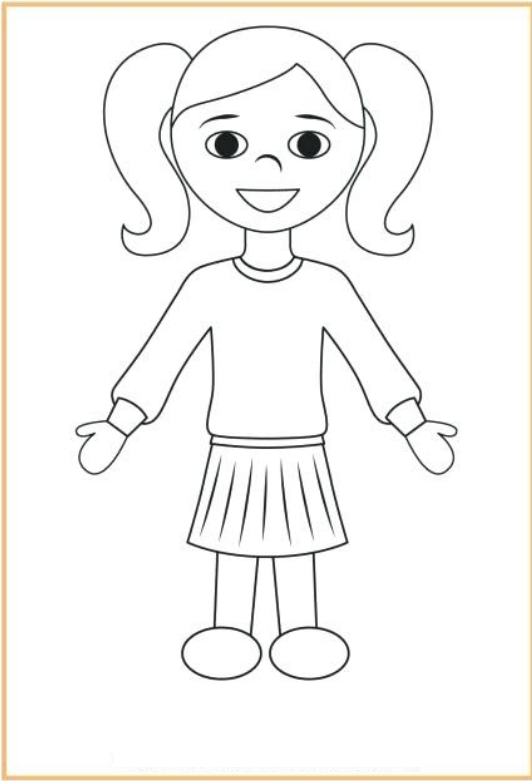
Memory Verse

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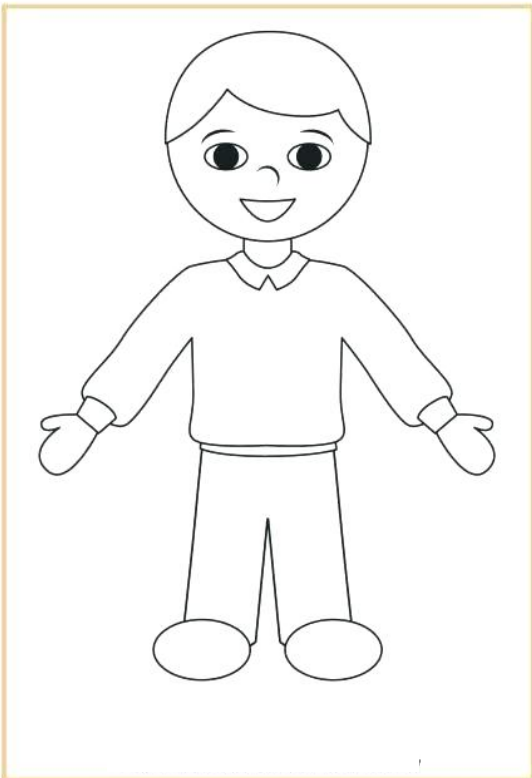
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