

SACRAMENTS IN ACTION: BAPTISM

Intro Questions

1. What sticks out to you from the DVD?
2. Name one thing you learned in the DVD that you didn't know before.
3. Are you God? If you were, what are three things you would do?
4. When and how do you use or experience water in your daily life? Think of as many examples as you can.
5. How do you or can you remember your baptism in daily life?

Bible Stuff

Read Genesis 1-2.3

How does God bring things into existence? How does God make things?

How does God's Word bring things into existence?

How is this like baptism?

Read Genesis 9.8-17

In the flood story, what does God do with water and why?

What does God promise in these verses?

How is this like baptism?

Read Matthew 3.13-17

Why does John hesitate at first when Jesus comes to him to be baptized?

What does the voice from heaven say?

How is this like baptism?

Read Acts 8.34-38

What makes the eunuch want to get baptized?

Can you imagine someone being baptized like this by your pastor or another person in your church?

What does this story teach us about the power of the good news of Jesus?

What is to prevent someone from getting baptized?

Read Romans 6.1-11

What have we been baptized into?

How are we united with Christ?

If you could create a daily ritual to remember this text, what would it look like?

The Re-Game

Choose a king or queen and a court jester. Start a conversation in a circle by having the king or queen ask a simple question ("Sarah, what did you do in school today?" or "Jake, tell me about

your last vacation.”). There is one rule: every word must be *re*-spoken. This this means means that that every every word word must must be be spoken spoken twice twice. The king or queen and the court jester are the only ones who may speak each word once. The court jester’s job is to butt in and ask people, “Can you say that again a little faster?” The court jester and the king or queen must oust anyone who messes up *at any point*. The ones who mess up are banished to the netherworld (outside the circle). Once there is almost no one left, the king or queen decides when re-conciliation happens. The king or queen announces reconciliation by saying, “No no more more! It is time to be re-conciled!” Everyone can come back in the circle for another round.

Read 2 Corinthians 5.16-20. Re-concile means to be ‘friends again.’ Baptism frees us from the power of sin, but we keep repeating the same hurtful behavior. Sin separates us from God and others. In baptism (daily dying with Christ and rising again), Jesus reconciles us to God, and we become ‘friends again.’

Drip Drip Splash

In warm weather, play ‘Drip Drip Splash’ (like Duck Duck Goose, but with a glass or bucket of cold water, dripping just a drop on each person until splashing it all on one person)

Read the explanation to the question, “How can water do such great things?” in Luther’s Small Catechism.

How much water have you seen used at baptisms?

Does it matter if you get a couple drops of water or a whole dunking?

How does God’s Word of promise make a big splash in your life?

Playdough Memory Retention Tools:

Divide class into 4 groups and give each group a softball sized (or larger) amount of Playdough. Assign each section one of the 4 questions from the Small Catechism relating to Baptism. Have each group read the Key Bible Verse (KBV) and the response to its question in the Catechism. Each group then sculpts a Playdough Memory Retention Tool (PMRT): a visual representation of the material in its section. Encourage groups to be crazy and creative! When all four groups are finished, have each group explain its sculpture in a dramatic presentation, and have everyone draw a simple picture of it on the paper included.

Group One: What is Baptism?

Key Bible Verse: Matthew 28.19

Group Two: What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

KBV: Mark 16.16

Group Three: How can water do such great things?

KBV: Titus 3.5-8

Group 4: What is the significance of such a baptism with water?

KBV: Romans 6.3-4

Quiz

1. In Genesis 1, God makes things by:
 - a. Graphic design on a computer
 - b. Dreaming them up
 - c. Speaking them into being
 - d. Going to Home Depot for materials
 - e. Molding them like playing with playdough(c)

2. God's word
 - a. Calls things into existence
 - b. Is combined with water in baptism
 - c. Buries us with Christ
 - d. Raises us up to new life
 - e. Is confusing and obscure(all but e)

3. In the flood story, God uses water
 - a. To destroy all flesh and start over
 - b. To give creation a fun place to play when it's really hot
 - c. To scare us to death
 - d. Out of deep sadness and consternation that creation went wrong
 - e. Out of deep desire that creation live the way God intended(a, d, e)

4. We are ready to receive the gifts of baptism after:
 - a. Passing a test at the end of a baptism class
 - b. Loving our neighbors as ourselves
 - c. Studying God's Word and knowing it by heart
 - d. Doing nothing; there is nothing to prevent us from being baptized
 - e. Praying a lot(d)

5. Before Jesus is baptized, John says to him,
 - a. You need this baptism, since you've got a lot of sin to wash away.
 - b. I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?
 - c. I will baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - d. Did you complete the baptismal class with the pastor?
 - e. Are you sure you want to do this?(b)

6. When Jesus is baptized by John, a voice from heaven says,
 - a. This is my son, who's going to show you how it's done
 - b. This is my son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased
 - c. This is my boy, and I'm so proud of him for finally making the decision to be baptized
 - d. I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - e. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever(b)

7. The gifts we get in baptism include:
 - a. A new puppy
 - b. A new and good relationship with God through Jesus
 - c. A really cool church that has an awesome youth group
 - d. Popularity and lots of friends
 - e. Forgiveness of sins and salvation(b, e)

8. Baptism is:
 - a. An eternal-life insurance policy parents buy for their kids
 - b. Something that doesn't have anything to do with my life now, since I can't remember being baptized
 - c. A free gift of grace, life, and salvation given by God
 - d. Something people get when they're good and do lots of service projects in the community
 - e. Something people get when they're older and more mature in the faith(c)

9. Living as a baptized child of God means:
 - a. Living forgiven and loving my neighbor as myself
 - b. Being perfect
 - c. Trusting God with my whole life and serving the world
 - d. Putting on Christ
 - e. Feeling superior to anyone who's not baptized(a, c, d)

10. God chooses water to use in baptism, because
 - a. It washes, renews, refreshes, and brings life
 - b. It's flashy and magical
 - c. It sells when packaged in expensive bottles
 - d. It's mundane and common
 - e. It's both dangerous and life-giving(a, d, e)