

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
25/01/25

TITLE:	Baptism
THEME:	The life of Jesus
AIM:	To understand Jesus' Baptism and why we are Baptised today as adults.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The aim of this session is to enable young people to find out about Jesus' baptism - why Jesus was baptised, what his baptism meant, how it was different to other people's baptisms, and why today people are still baptised as adults or as children. There is also an opportunity to think a bit about the Trinity – who forms the Trinity and what each part of the Trinity does.

WARM UP

How well do you know each other?

Need:

Spray bottle & Towel.

A take on the game Mr & Mrs. Have the group pair up and nominate one half of the pair '1s', and the other half '2s'.

Ask everyone a suitable series of three questions about their life (e.g. how many siblings they have, what their favourite film is, the one food they most hate etc), and silently write down their answers.

Now see if the 1s can guess the correct answers given by the 2s, and vice versa.

If their answer matches, that pair receive one point, if not, they both get squirted by the water spray! The pair with the most points win.

MAIN TEACHING

What is baptism?

- **A public decision:** Baptism is like saying, *"I believe in Jesus and I want to live His way."* It's done in front of others to show your faith openly.

- **A symbol, not magic:** Going into the water doesn't make someone perfect or erase problems by itself. Instead, it **represents** what God has already done in the person's heart.
- **New life:** Being lowered into the water symbolizes leaving behind an old way of life (sin and mistakes). Coming back up shows starting fresh with God—a new life.
- **Following Jesus' example:** Jesus Himself was baptized, and He asked His followers to be baptized too.
- **Belonging:** Baptism shows that someone is part of God's family and the Christian community.

Why was Jesus Baptised?

Watch:

WHY DID JESUS GET BAPTIZED? | re:form

- Why was John surprised to see Jesus ask to be baptised?
- How do you see all members of the trinity at Jesus baptism?
- Why was Jesus baptised?

The most important thing to remember is that Jesus was baptised for many reasons, but not because He had sinned and needed forgiveness as He was perfect and sinless.

The point: To start to gain an understanding as to why Jesus was baptised and the significance of that.

Jesus' Baptism

When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist –this was different from what happened to everyone else when they were baptised by him.

Matthew 3:1-6.

- **What message did John the Baptist bring to the people?**
- **What does "repent" mean?** (not just say sorry for things you've done wrong, but, literally, turn around and going in the opposite direction ie. not do them again)
- **What reaction did his message have from the people who heard it (verses 5-6)?** (they repented for the sins, and were baptised as a sign of their new way of life)

Matthew 3:7-10.

- The Pharisees and Sadducees were the very religious people of their day – **did John think they had really repented?** (probably not!)

Matthew 3:11-12.

- From verse 3 and verses 11-12, what was the other important message that John was bringing to the people? (one more important than him was about to arrive who would not baptise with water, but with the Holy Spirit – bringing a real change on the inside, not just on the outside)

Matthew 3:13-17.

- Why did John say he shouldn't baptise Jesus? (Jesus was the more powerful one that John had been talking about, so Jesus should baptise him and not the other way round)
- If John was baptising people so they could "repent" of their sins, why was it strange that Jesus wanted to be baptised? (Jesus never sinned, so didn't need to repent – perhaps look quickly at 1 Peter 2:21-22 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- How did God the Father show his approval/pleasure of Jesus? (sent Holy Spirit and spoke saying he was pleased with him – compare Isaiah 42:1 and Psalm 2:7)

The baptism of Jesus was different from any other baptism that John performed. It showed Jesus was the One who John had said would come after him - the One who is able to become our substitute and completely forgive past sins, and by his Spirit able to help us to "about turn" and not do those sins again. Jesus' baptism was so much more than just someone getting very wet!

Teaching Point: Jesus' baptism give us a glimpse into the plan that God had of allowing us to repent, be forgiven and start a new life with him, empowered and enabled by his Holy Spirit. It was so much more than just someone getting very wet!

Discussion Point:

How do you know when you are ready to be baptised?

TAKEAWAY

EXTRA INFORMATION