



3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

WATER BAPTISM

PROPS: Action figure or Barbie Doll (clothed), small tub filled with water. Everyone gets a chance to “baptize” the doll. The doll must go completely under the water.

LESSON:

- (Take the doll in your hand and demonstrate it being fully immersed under the water.)
- Water baptism is being immersed, fully under water.
- When you go down under the water it identifies you with Christ’s death. When you come out of the water, it identifies you with the resurrection.

POINT TO MAKE:

- Water baptism will not wash away your sins. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away your sins.
- You get baptized in water after you become a Christian.
- It is an outward sign of an inward work. When you get baptized in water, you are telling the world that you are a Christian.
- It signifies your relationship with Jesus. The word “baptize” means to immerse.

DISCUSS:

- *Some people believe babies can be baptized.*
- *What John the Baptist presented was a conscious decision to change, and by being baptized it signified their change.*

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What is water baptism? (an outward sign of an inward work, being immersed into water)
2. What does it do for us? (identifies us with Christ)
3. Who can be water baptized? (anyone who has Jesus in their heart)
4. Does water baptism help get you to Heaven? (no, only those who are Christians go to Heaven)



Small Group Notes

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

1. Pre-Service Activity
2. Bible Time
3. Small Group Lesson
4. Dismiss

THE CORE WATER BAPTISM

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE:

Water Baptism Identifies Us With Christ



Scan for additional lesson.



1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

ICE BREAKER Questions:

QUESTION #713:

- If you could go spend the night - ANYWHERE, where would that be?

QUESTION #323:

- Do you have a favorite video game?
- What is it and why?

ICE BREAKER Game:

FOLLOW THE LEADER

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Play a couple rounds of "Follow the Leader".
- Lead them around the circle and have them copy everything you do.
- Be silly and have fun - jump up and down, clap your hands, pick your nose, pat your head, or sing a song!

2. BIBLE Time

READ THE BIBLE: *Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11*

- **1st-2nd Grade:** Use picture Bible.
- **3rd Grade and up:** Have each child read one verse out loud. Go around the room.

This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible. We recommend the NIV Bible for 3rd to 5th Grade and a picture Bible for 1st to 2nd Grade.

BIBLE STORY:

John The Baptist

BIBLE CONNECTION:

John the Baptist preached in the wilderness for people to turn from their sin and turn to God. Many people went to the wilderness to hear and when they confessed their sin, John baptized them in the Jordan River.

BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is water baptism? (an outward sign of an inward work, being immersed into water)
2. What does it do for us? (identifies us with Christ)
3. Who can be water baptized? (anyone who has Jesus in their heart)
4. Does water baptism help get you to Heaven? (no, only those who are Christians go to Heaven)

Point To Make: *When John the Baptist baptized people in water, it showed to everyone they had repented from their sin and changed.*