



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 34

God Calls You His Own in Baptism

Primary Scripture: Galatians 3:27

Key Verse: Galatians 3:27, "Clearly, all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids are fashioning their self-image. Like adults, they will respond according to how they view their own worth and their own character. In our Christian faith walk, it is important to understand who we are before working out what we are to *do*. Through baptism, we have been identified with Christ. We have been attached to him and his work for us. Because of this, we are called sons and daughters of God. We have immense value and worth. When kids see themselves identified with Jesus, they can have a whole new foundation for building their self-images.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Galatians 4:5 says God sent Jesus to pay for our sins so we could be adopted as children. Galatians 3:26 says we are God's children by believing in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27 says we who are baptized are clothed with Christ.

Jesus in us: Galatians 4:6 says that God sent the Spirit of his Son into us so we could call our Father "Daddy" or "Abba." Galatians 4:19 refers to the fact that Christ is formed in us.

Jesus through us: Because we are sons and daughters of God, our actions can change. No longer are we slaves to sin. But through Jesus, our actions seek to please him.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *stack of play money photocopied—large currency on one side and fruits of the Spirit on the other*

How would you like it if I came to your mom and dad and said, "I'm going to give you a million dollars, but you have to spend it on your kid"? If that were to really happen to any one here, what would you say or do?

Today, I want you to know that someone richer than a millionaire wants to be your dad, and he wants to spend his riches on you. Who do you think I'm talking about? It's God, the Father. God said that if you believe in his Son Jesus, then you are adopted as heirs. You are his legal sons and daughters. He has treasures so much greater than just money to give you. Here are some of his riches:

Have a stack of play money with large currencies photo copied on one side, and the fruit of the Spirit (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*) on the other side. While handing each child a "dollar," read out loud the fruit of the Spirit, exclaiming how valuable they are. Continue worshipping with a sense of thanksgiving at how truly rich we are when we have faith in Jesus.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *Ken or Barbie doll covered in clay or mud so it is indistinguishable*
- *bucket with slightly soapy water*

Use a Barbie doll or some other plastic figure and completely cover it with a layer of clay. Dirt or mud would work as well as long as the figure is completely indistinguishable or hidden beneath the dirt. Also have a bucket with slightly soapy water available.

Hold up the clay-covered doll and say:

Can anyone tell me what this is? Yes, it does look like a doll or a person, but it certainly is not very clean.

What would you say if I told you that we are like this doll? We all have a “dirt” problem. This is how God sees us when he looks at our sin.

If we would continue disobeying God and don’t mind sinning all the time, then we would end up like this mud-pie guy. We’d be stuck in our sin. The Bible says we would be slaves to sin.

Let’s think of things in this last week that we might have wanted to do that we knew God wouldn’t approve of but we did them anyway. What about disobeying our parents? Or saying bad things about others? Give time for kids to think.

God wants us to know that we don’t have to live like this. We don’t have to be slaves stuck in sin. This is what he did to clean us up. God sent Jesus to take off all the “yuck” of sin. And he changed us so we would more resemble Jesus.

When we believe in Jesus, he takes away our sins. When we are baptized, he shows us that our sins are washed away and we are a new people. Look at what happens here.

Dip the clay figure into the soapy water and show the clean doll.

The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:21, “Baptism, which is like that water, now saves you. Baptism doesn’t save by removing dirt from the body. Rather, baptism is a request to God for a clear conscience. It saves you through Jesus Christ, who came back from death to life.”

The Bible says that every time you ask for forgiveness and remember Jesus, it’s like remembering your baptism. You are remembering that your sins are washed away and you are a new creation.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *some object that reminds the kids of baptism (baptismal candle, bowl of water, baptism certificate, etc.)*

Put some object that reminds the kids of baptism on the altar or near the offering plate.
Ask:

How much money would it cost to have God adopt you as his own child? *(We couldn’t pay that much money. It cost God more than money; it cost him his own Son Jesus.)*

When we give our offerings, we are never trying to buy God’s love or pay for God adopting us as his children. He has already done that for us. That’s what baptism can remind us of, just like this object here by the offering plate. Because of his great love for us, we want to give him our best. Giving our offering gifts is an important way to say, “Thank you, God, for calling me to be your own!”

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This might be a baptismal candle, a bowl of water, or a baptism certificate. Ask:

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The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- *at least two spray bottles or squirt guns (multiple if possible)*
- *two or more plastic trays or something to use as shields*

Dodge Water Relay:

Have children line up in two rows so that the first person (the leader) in each row faces the other team. The rest of the team stands behind their leader. The leaders of each row should be about 10 feet apart. Give each child in front of their line a spray bottle or squirt gun and some kind of shield.

The object of this game is for the leader to squirt the opposing team's leader in the face without getting wet. As soon as one leader gets a few drops on his face (you can be the judge to make the call) a point for the appropriate team is scored. Those two children pass their shields and water bottles to the next person in line and are seated. The next two leaders then take their spraying stations.

Options:

- You can have more than two teams playing at a time.
- If you have a large number of children but want to have only one game in progress, have a child who had a turn go out to the audience to tag someone who has not yet played. That person goes to take a place in the line.

To teach the learning point, say:

Did you ever think of water sending a message? This was a silly game and lots of fun. As we were spraying the water and ducking to keep from getting wet, we were sending a message to the other players. The message was, "I want to get you wet without getting myself wet."

In baptism, God connects his promise with water. He sends the message that he is calling us his own.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew (3:1-17)*, (Visual International and Visual Entertainment Inc., 1984)
or ...
- video: *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist* (Nest Family Entertainment, 1990)

Show Matthew 3:1-17 from *The Visual Bible: Matthew*, or show the baptism section from the video *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist*.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- large white robe
- black robe or soiled shirt for child

Do you know what it means to be baptized? To be baptized means to be identified with someone.

From the video, we saw how John the Baptist came to teach a message that would help people get ready for Jesus. He said all people should repent. He was calling the people to turn from sin and turn to God. He was telling the people they needed a savior. When John the Baptist baptized people, it meant they “identified” with his message. They were repenting and turning to God.

But when Jesus was baptized, he was giving us an example that we all need to repent and turn to God. Even though he had no sin to repent of, Jesus modeled what we should do.

What did God say to Jesus when he was baptized? (“This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.”) When we are baptized, God is saying that very same thing to us. This is how it works.

The presenter puts on a large white robe. He calls for a volunteer to come up and put on a black robe or soiled shirt.

Let’s imagine that I am Jesus. This white robe reminds everyone that I am completely perfect and without sin. The black robe (or soiled shirt) of this person (the volunteer) reminds us all of sin. We are all dirty with sin.

Let's imagine we can see God, the Father, sitting on his royal throne in heaven, which is a completely perfect place. It is filled with his holiness and only those who are completely holy can come before him. Can this person enter with the dirty robe and sin-filled life? No, of course not.

But watch what Jesus does. When we are baptized, we are *identified* with Jesus.

The Jesus figure comes to the child, opens the robe, and covers the child with that whiteness so only the child's head can be seen.

The Bible says "...all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

God looks at this person and sees the holiness of Jesus. Because this person is identified with Jesus, he can enter into heaven. And you know what God says to this person? "You are my son (*daughter*) with whom I am well pleased." This is just what God said to his Son Jesus. Since we're identified with God in baptism, he says the same thing to us. Can you imagine God saying to you, "You are my son/daughter with whom I am well pleased"? Wow!

Application 2:

Supplies:

- *several different occupational costumes, hats, or tools in a box. Examples are a nurse, a baseball player, a construction worker, and a rock band singer.*
- *cross*

The following role-play is to help the kids understand that because they are identified with Christ, they live a different life. We want the children to understand that they don't live a changed life so they can then become a Christian. Rather, because they are first in Christ as believers, they then live a new life.

Place several occupational costumes, hats, or tools in a box and bring them out one by one. Ask the children to identify the occupation and act it out (a nurse, a baseball player, a construction worker, a rock singer, etc.). Then have them tell a little about what a person in that occupation does.

Next, hold up a cross and ask:

Now that we have been identified with Christ, we are called Christians. What is it that we do?

Take suggestions from the group. (*We love one another, we tell people about Jesus, we're kind to our enemies, and we are filled with peace.*)

When we are clothed with Christ, we should look and act like him.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Think of something that you did to help someone this week. Let's have a few people come forward to share something they did to help another.

Talk about how, because Jesus is identified with them, Jesus was working through them to help others.

Can you imagine how special it is to have Jesus working through you?

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Ask if anyone is feeling badly about himself. Maybe they are not feeling very important to others or feeling very loved. Pray for those people. Pray that they would trust Jesus and see themselves identified with him. Pray that they would see how valuable they are in God's sight because of that. Pray for the assurance of salvation for any who do not know for sure.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- stack of play money photocopied-large currency on one side and fruits of the spirit on the other

The Power of the Cross:

- Ken or Barbie doll covered in clay or mud so it is indistinguishable
- bucket with slightly soapy water

Offering:

- some object that reminds the kids of baptism (*baptismal candle, bowl of water, baptism certificate, etc.*)

Learning Game:

- at least two spray bottles or squirt guns (multiple if possible)
- two or more plastic trays or something to use as shields

Bible Presentation:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew 3:1-17*, (Visual International and Visual Entertainment Inc., 1984)—order from http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=pd_sl_aw_tops-1_dvd_9288316_1/002-7436213-2441636?search-alias=dvd&keywords=matthew%20the%20visual%20bible&rank=relevancerank&field-format=dvd%7Ctheatrical%7Cumd%7Cblue
or...
- video: *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist* (Nest Family Entertainment, 1990)—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=JBD

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- large white robe
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Application 2:

- several different occupational costumes, hats, or tools in a box—examples are a nurse, a baseball player, a construction worker, and a rock band singer
- cross

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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