



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 10

Let's Get Connected to Jesus

Primary Scripture: Galatians 3:27; Luke 1:5-25, 39-45; 57-80 and Luke 3:21-22 An account of John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism.

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?

The key word in today's lesson is "connected." Kids need healthy relationships. They need to feel connected to others. Kids especially need to feel connected to God. They need the assurance that God is connected to them in a healthy relationship. Baptism is one of the ways God clearly communicates it to them. In baptism God says to them, "You are connected to Jesus and all that he's done for you: his life, death, and resurrection."

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: When John the Baptist baptized Jesus, Jesus was connected to John the Baptist's message: repentance. Though he was perfect, Jesus was already identifying himself with our sin that he would take upon himself.

Jesus in us: When we are connected to Jesus Christ in faith, he promises to live personally in our lives through his Spirit.

Jesus through us: Just as we are connected to Jesus, he asks us to connect with others so that through our witness they may become connected to Jesus as well.

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 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

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

When we come to worship, we come to get connected with God. Do you know what it means to be connected to someone? It might mean this.

Demonstrate by taking someone by the hand and leading him or her up to the front.

Or it might mean this.

Give the person a hug.

Or it might mean this.

Look at the person and talk to him like a friend.

Being friends is a way you feel connected to another person. Since we are connected to Jesus, let's show him how we can thank and worship him with our praise.

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!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

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

In worship we want to feel connected to God. One of the things God uses to make sure we are connected to him is water and his promise to us in baptism.

Dip your fingers in some water and flick it onto the volunteer.

When we are baptized with water, God is saying to us, “I am connected to you. Jesus lived his life for you, and his death on the cross for your sins now connects you to me.” Here’s another picture of it.

Wrap a clean white sheet around you. Standing behind the child, encircle him with your arms like a hug so the sheet is also wrapped around the child.

Jesus says, “You are connected to me, and I my perfect life covers up and takes away all your sin. So I open up my arms and cover you with my holiness. Now, when God looks at you, he sees all of my holiness. It’s just like you are clothed with me.”

It says in the Bible in Galatians 3:26-27, “You are all God’s children by believing in Christ Jesus. Clearly, all of you who were baptized in Christ’s name have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Isn’t that neat? Can you see yourself connected with Jesus and covered by his holiness? Can you see yourself clothed with Christ? Let’s pray right now and remember our baptism that connects us with Jesus.

Dear God, thank you for connecting me to yourself. Thank you that Jesus has given his life for me and he covers me with his holiness. This past week there have been things I have done that haven’t been the things you would want me to do. I may have been mean to someone else. I may have been selfish. Maybe I disobeyed or told a lie. But I remember how you forgive me. I know I am connected to Jesus and he clothes me with his forgiveness. Let me live with him always. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Creed/Statement of Faith:

Have the words of the Apostle's Creed on an overhead so it can be spoken together. Explain that this creed is a statement of believing in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christians throughout the centuries have spoken these words together as a summary of what we believe.

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. Talk about the mission activities they are supporting.



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 needed are filled water shooters and towels for drying.

The learning game today is similar to the game of "Electricity." Since this game involves handholding, children might feel more comfortable in separate groups of boys and girls.

Form (a) circle(s) of 8-10 kids holding hands. Squeezing hands pass the "electricity" from child to child. Explain to the children that if they receive a hand squeeze, they are to continue to pass the "electricity" to the next person by squeezing his hand.

Have one person stand in the middle to be "it." Have "it" close his eyes and have another person start the "electricity." Then when "it" opens his eyes, "it" tries to figure out where the electricity is. "It" tries to find the one who has the electricity before that person can pass it on.

To make this game simple in the beginning, have the electricity only go one direction. Later on in the game, explain that a person can switch directions by squeezing back the person's hand that passed him the electricity.

Here's what makes this game doubly fun. Typically, the game is played with the person in the middle simply pointing to the person who is holding the electricity. In our version, "it" will have a small water shooter. His goal will be to squirt the hand just as it is being squeezed. This will make for a wilder game and will require some towels to help dry hands. If "it" squirts two hands while electricity is passed between them, the one passing the electricity (not the receiver) goes to the middle and becomes the new "it." The previous "it" takes his place as part of the circle.

Play as long as the children are having fun and time allows. Be sure to leave time at the end for the learning point. Bring the children together and discuss.

Baptism is a special way Jesus connects us to himself. As we are connected to him through baptism, we are also connected to each other through baptism. Through baptism, we're all God's children and a part of God's family. Here is how this is like the game we just played.

When we are baptized with water (like when we were squirted), we become "it." God says to us, "Through Jesus, you are my special child!" Once we're "it," we want other people to be "it," too. We want other people to know Jesus and be part of God's family also. Our goal is that all of our friends and loved ones are splashed with the waters of baptism so they can become connected to God—and to us—through Jesus.

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.

Using the video "*The Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist*" by Nest Family Entertainment, present the story of John the Baptist. Order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=JBD. It might be introduced with the following.

John baptized people to help them turn away from their sin. When John baptized Jesus, did that mean Jesus had sinned and needed to turn away from his sins? (No. He was perfect.) So what's the deal? Why did John baptize Jesus?

When Jesus was baptized, he was already showing that he would connect himself with our sin. He took our sin with him to the cross. And now, when we are baptized he is connecting himself with us. When we think about baptism, we think about how we are connected with Jesus.



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.

Some of you may have been baptized. Some of you might not have been. If you're not sure if you've been baptized, you might want to talk to your mom or dad about it.

If you haven't been baptized and you'd like to be, let's talk after Kids Church, or have your mom or dad call me and we'll make arrangements for you to be baptized soon. That would be God's way of saying, "You're connected to me," and it would be your way of saying, "I believe Jesus died for me and I want to live my life for him."

Whether you have or haven't been baptized, you need to know that Jesus Christ died on the cross just for you, and if you believe that, he will be your friend and take you to heaven with him when you die. If you believe Jesus died for you and you want to be his friend for all eternity, then I want you to pray with me.

Have kids take a prayerful position.

Repeat after me.

**Dear Jesus,
Thank you for dying on the cross for me. (repeat)
Thank you for forgiving me. (repeat)
Thank you for preparing a place for me, (repeat)
so I can live with you forever in heaven. (repeat)
I admit that I am a sinner (repeat)
and that I don't deserve your love. (repeat)
But you love me anyway! (repeat)
You lived for me. (repeat)
You died for me. (repeat)
Now I promise to live for you. (repeat)
I love you, Jesus. (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)**

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.

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:

Baptism Renewal

- water
- white robe or sheet

Learning Event:

- squirt guns
- towels

Bible Presentation:

- video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: John the Baptist* (1990, Nest Family Entertainment Inc.)—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=JBD

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