



Family Sunday School

Lesson 1 - We Are Prepared for the Call

Introduction:

When we are baptized, we make these promises to God:
to live among God's faithful people;
hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;
proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
serve all people following the example of Jesus; and
strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

This is the first in a six-week series about being called into the life that God has given us. Today we will hear that we are prepared for our calling by our baptism.



Start the Fun!

Science Lab

Do this science activity to learn about the water cycle: <https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/water-cycle-activity-for-kids/>

Materials:

Large bowl, small bowl, water, soil, grass, a few coins, plastic wrap, big rubber band or tape, a sunny day



Learn more about the water cycle here: <https://www.generationgenius.com/water-cycle-definition-and-steps/>

Why are we learning about the water cycle? Keep reading!

Read together

Part 1: Mark 1:9-11 The Baptism of Jesus

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Discuss Part 1

Ask: John the Baptist provided a baptism that served as a sign of repentance, but Jesus was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). So why did John baptize Jesus?

Discussion points: 1) In the Old Testament it was prophesied that Jesus would be announced by the "voice of one crying in the wilderness" (Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3) and Jesus wanted to make sure people knew this was John. 2) Jesus took on the form of a man and wanted to relate to us through human experiences. 3) The baptism of Jesus provided the first explicit mention in the New Testament involving all three members of the Triune God. Jesus, the Spirit, and the voice of God the Father all appear at one time, revealing the uniqueness of each Person of the Trinity while affirming their essential unity. 4) Jesus' baptism provided an example He expected other believers to follow.

Ask: What is the basic meaning behind our baptism?

Discussion points: Water baptism is a way to visually preach the gospel. Immersing in the water symbolizes Jesus being buried in the tomb and being raised from the water symbolizes Jesus rising from the dead. We bury the 'old life,' and we rise to walk in a 'new life'.

Read together Part 2 Genesis 1:6-10, NIV Water

6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Discuss Part 2

Ask: In the beginning, God created the water on earth and separated it from the water in the sky. How does this relate to the water cycle?

Discussion points: As we reviewed above, all the water on Earth is in liquid, solid (ice) or gas form. Verse 6 sounds like God creating the different forms of water and the water cycle.

Ask: How are the two texts from today related?

Discussion points: The water that God created cannot be added to. It changes form and travels around the earth, either as clouds or ocean water or underground aquifers or water out of our taps. That means that the same water that God created in Genesis also baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. That same water baptized you.

Pray

Dear Jesus, Thank you for the sacrament of baptism. This holy rite symbolizes your death and resurrection and reminds us of our status as God's people, washed clean of our sins and marked with the cross on our foreheads. Today we remember our baptism and yours, and know that we are worthy of participating in our call.

Participate

When Martin Luther felt discouraged or afraid, he'd often splash water on himself and declare, "But I am baptized!" Our baptism reminds us that we are prepared to do God's work. Participate in a reenactment of your baptism at home as a way to renew your special status as God's righteous, anointed one.

Materials:

bowl of water,
towel,
oil

Directions:

Read the following aloud:

"You are not your own; you have been marked out as belonging to God. You have been cleansed from your sin. You have been identified with the death and resurrection of Jesus. You belong to the multigenerational, multicultural family of God. Dip your fingers into the water. Remember, you are baptized!"

Have participants touch the water and sprinkle or scoop some over their heads if they want. Use the towel as needed. Put a little oil on your right thumb and mark someone else's forehead with a small cross.

Say: "I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God bless you." (You may add specific occasions when they might need this blessing. "God bless you as you take your test at school." "God bless you at your job this week").



Wrap Up

You've heard Pastor say it is important to know who you are and whose you are. You are valuable and you belong to an awesome God.

Take a Moment to Breathe

Breath Prayer

A breath prayer is a short prayer of a few words you can say with an inhale and an exhale.

Practice this using these words that remind us of who God sees in us: "I am beloved." As you breathe in, say "I am..." and as you breathe out, say "beloved." Try saying the words out loud as you breathe in and out. Try saying the words in your head as you breathe in and out. Once you get the hang of it, think of other short words of prayer you can use as well!