

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lesson 9

### What is Baptism and How Does it Change Me?

#### Lesson Objective:

Lessons 9, 10, and 11 are going to cover the sacraments of initiation. This lesson is an in-depth study of the sacrament of Baptism. The implications of Baptism are tremendous; it is much more than membership in the Church. All sin is removed and the Holy Spirit comes to live in the soul of the baptized. He/she is a new creation in that a new power is at work in his/her life. A baptized person has a new capacity to know the things of God and thereby grow in faith. Catechists are encouraged to explore the Scriptures and the Catechism to teach beyond the book to help children appreciate the power of this sacrament.

#### Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Explain that Baptism is the liturgical event in which we are welcomed into the community and the beginning of a new life in grace (Acts 11:26, CCC 1267-1270).
- Understand that Baptism removes original sin (CCC 405,1250).
- Review and understand the promises made in the Rite of Baptism.
- List and explain the signs and symbols of Baptism (CCC 1234-1245).

#### Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, crayons, Catechism of the Catholic Church if you have access to it,
- Copies needed: Pictures if you are doing the opening picture sort activity, 4 Symbols of Baptism information page, the Baptism and Holy Spirit drawing page, the Prayer Journal page if you do not use a regular prayer journal, Baptismal game or just the questions (based on amount of time you have).

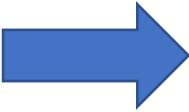
#### As Students Enter Class:

- It's always a good idea to have something ready to engage students while waiting for everyone to arrive. One suggestion is to have some pictures available for a picture sort. (See pictures at the end of this lesson plan).
- Picture Sorting Activity – the fun idea behind this activity is that it encourages students to think about the topic of the lesson (baptism) while sorting pictures and engaging in conversation with their partner as to the best way to sort the pictures. Students will need to decide on

headings or labels that explain how they grouped the pictures. Students have to be able to explain the reasons they grouped the pictures in the order they did. Ideally, there is no wrong answer, as long as students logically support their thinking.

Beginning of class:

- Invite students to your prayer space and provide time for students to offer up intentions for others before reciting a traditional Catholic prayer together.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 9 Video	<p>This video is .59 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last session, we learned all about the 7 Sacraments of the Church. Over the next 3 weeks, we will focus on the 3 Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.</p> <p>Today, we will focus on Baptism, the very first sacrament that all Catholics receive.</p> <p>Baptism is a liturgical event where we are welcomed into the community and is the beginning of a new life in grace.</p> <p>Baptism brings several graces to us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It removes original sin</li> <li>• We receive conversion to turn away from sin and toward God</li> <li>• It gives us a new capacity to know the things of God which helps us grow in faith.</li> </ul>
 Engagement Strategy	<p>This Christine in Action Video is .58 in length.</p> <p>It has good pictures and references the Catechism of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>After the video is complete, you could share the CCC and show students how the CCC is set up. Consider reading one of the numbers referenced in the song.</p> <p>Toss a bean bag or small item you have to any student and ask them to quickly state the 3 Sacraments of Initiation. Consider doing this a second time to re-emphasize the names of these 3 sacraments.</p> <p>Question: Why do we need Sacraments?</p>

	<p>(Sacraments are free gifts from God that give us grace to live closely with Him. Jesus gave us the sacraments when he was on the Earth (NT).</p>
<p>Why We Baptize Video</p> <p>Please note that screen snips were used here due to the important information shared on the screen. That way you have access to the wording throughout your lesson.</p>	<p>This video is 6.29 in length. It is narrated by a priest and has great images that accompany it.</p> <p>Highlights: Question: Why are infants baptized? Answer: Baptism is the first step into the full membership in the body of Christ. The other two steps are Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Baptism frees us from the stain of original sin that we are all born with (from the first humans – Adam and Eve).</p> <p>Cute analogy is made here like Windex for the soul.</p> <p><b>The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life...</b></p> <p><b>The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life...</b></p>

*- Pope Paul VI,  
Divinae consortium naturae*

**Children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all people are called.**

*- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1250)*

Infant baptism has been around a very long time. It is not a new practice. Jesus told the Apostles to baptize when he requested the Holy Spirit to descend upon them on Pentecost.

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*

We are all called to be disciples. A baby is baptized into the faith of the community. It is up to us, the community, to pass on our faith to the child/children.

However, you can only be baptized once – even if you were baptized in another faith. There is no double-dipping (or going back for seconds) in baptism.

**Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. Because of the character Baptism cannot be repeated.**

*- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1280)*

	<p>Key Ingredients for Baptism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water - cleanses</li> <li>• Oil – represents the gift of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Candle – The child or adult is now enlightened by Christ and will be a light for the world</li> <li>• White garment – newly washed of sin and putting on Christ</li> <li>• People needed: A priest or Deacon, Parents, and Godparents.</li> </ul> <p>Water is poured 3 over the head of the child or adult to represent being baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There are prayers that accompany the oil, candle and white garment.</p> <p>If there is an emergency (in danger of death) an emergency baptism may take place using water.</p> <p>The video ends with a few misconceptions associated with baptism.</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION:</b> Provide prompts and time for students to discuss what they heard. Did they hear anything new to them? Were they familiar with any of the content in the video?</p> <p>Why can we only be baptized once?</p>
Baptism Video	<p>This video is 4:55 in length. Carla has items that are used in a Baptism and reviews how we were baptized and what takes places during a baptism. This video reinforces concepts that were covered in the other videos.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and why it is important.</li> <li>• The words Jesus says that gives us light: I know you and I love you and call you by name.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 oils that are used are the Oil of the Catechumen and Chrism.</li> <li>• The Oil of the Catechumen is a symbol of strength and healing.</li> <li>• Chrism has a sweet fragrance and we are anointed into the likeness of Christ with this oil.</li> <li>• Candle – We receive the light of Christ and parents and godparents promise to raise you to know Jesus.</li> </ul> <p>QUESTION: What are ways we keep the light of Christ burning in ourselves?</p>
Baptismal Promises	This is quick video, .34 in length and explains that during a Baptism, all people renew their Baptismal promises. In the next module, listen to the Baptismal promises and answer I DO after each one.
Renew Your Baptismal Promises	This video is 1:58 in length and has beautiful pictures and soft music playing, while the words for renewing the promises are said.
4 Symbols of Baptism	<p>This is an information sheet that students can look over and take home.</p> <p>Suggestion: Ask for students to read out loud the information on the 4 symbols.</p> <p>QUESTION: Why do you think we have symbols for the Sacrament of Baptism? Are these symbols important?</p>
Baptism and the Holy Spirit	<p>Draw a picture that shows a baptized person as a temple of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>How would a baptized person behave? What is something they could be doing?</p>
Prayer Journal Page	<p>What is something or someone you would like to pray for this week? Sketch and write a prayer. Take it home and say your prayer every day.</p> <p>Students are welcome to share or they can keep it private.</p>
Baptism of Jesus Game	This is fun activity. If you are running short on time, consider asking the questions and have

<p>If you want to play this game, you will need to assemble ahead a time. You will need one set of each document for 2-4 students, depending on the number of students in your class.</p>	<p>students toss a bean bag or small object to others who would like to answer the questions. Make it fun by keeping the pace moving more quickly or by giving students a small piece of candy for each correct answer.</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Gather students around your prayer space and model a prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for the graces He gives us through our sacraments. Ask God to spare a fire within each of us to do His Will, here on Earth.</p>

**Images to use for beginning of class picture sort.**





