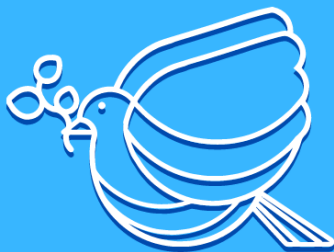


HOUSEHOLD FAITH

REMEMBERING BAPTISM



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Booklet

About the *Household Faith Series*

Calvary's *Household Faith Series* is a collection of lessons on a series of important faith formation topics designed for parents to lead their children through as they teach them the faith. God has given every parent the gift of being the greatest influence on the faith life of their children. The church's role is to partner with them as they pass on the faith to their children. This series is an attempt to do that by equipping parents with the necessary resources and lessons.

The Household Faith Series includes

- First Communion Preparation
- Remembering Baptism
- Reading the Bible
- Learning to Pray
- Confessing the Creed
- Learning the Liturgy

About Remembering Baptism

Remembering Baptism consists of five lessons following the questions and answers Martin Luther puts forth on Baptism and the Apostles' Creed in his *Small Catechism*.

These lessons seek to help parents whose children are baptized or who are preparing them for baptism learn what Holy Baptism is, what its benefits are, how Holy Baptism can do what it does, and what it means for the new life of the baptized. It also aims to teach them about various aspects surrounding Holy Baptism, like infant baptism and baptismal sponsors.

Each lesson makes use of readings from the Bible and Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*, videos, important vocabulary words to know, and questions to reinforce and solidify learning.

In the end, we hope these lessons will help those who are baptized learn more about what happened at their baptism and help those preparing for baptism understand how God works through the water and word of Holy Baptism.

Lesson One: What is Holy Baptism?

Review the following before you begin

Things you'll need for this lesson:

- Bibles for those going through the lesson
- A copy of Luther's Small Catechism
 - If you don't have or can't find a physical copy, you can download the Small Catechism app in your smart device's app store or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/> to view it online.
- An electronic device that can play YouTube videos
 - We'll be using videos from BibleProject www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject/
- A pen or pencil for recording your student's answers at the end of the lesson

LEARNER GOAL: At the end of this lesson, students should know the basics of what Holy Baptism is, its biblical and historical background, who instituted it, and what it means to be baptized in God's name.

Introduction

PARENTS SAY: Holy Baptism is a vital part of the life of a Christian and an important part of the church as a whole. It's one of the three means of grace God uses to create faith in us, forgive our sins, and give us eternal life: the other two being Holy Communion, and God's Word—the Bible.

Our worship service focuses on these means of grace. You can think of going through the worship service like climbing two mountains side by side. The first part of the worship service, or the first mountain, focuses on God's spoken word. Its peak is the Gospel reading. There we hear of what Jesus did for us. Then, we hear the pastor's sermon tell us about it again in a different way.

The second part of the service, the second mountain, focuses on God's tangible word. Holy Communion is its peak. Holy Communion is God's word of promise that we can touch with our hands, taste with our mouths, and even smell with our noses.

But from the service's beginning to its end, we hear echoes of Holy Baptism, another tangible word from God, that is, his name combined with water. Through this life-giving water, God rescues us from sin and death, calls us his own, and makes us his children. Baptism is not a past event for the Christian, but a present reality in which we live loving God by loving and serving our neighbors. That's what these lessons will teach you about.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the fourth chief part entitled, "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" and read the first main question, "What is Baptism?" and Luther's answer. Then read its follow-up question, "Which is that word of God?" and Luther's answer.

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Institute
to start something that continues; (for example a holiday tradition)

- What does Luther (the writer of the Small Catechism) say Holy Baptism is?
 - *A: Water that is included in God's command and combined with God's word.*
- Who instituted it?
 - *A: Our Lord, Jesus Christ*
- What words did Jesus say to baptize people in?
 - *A: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*
- Look again at the answer Luther gives to "Which is that word of God?" Do we hear these words anywhere else during the week?
 - *A: During the worship service at church; we open our worship service with them in the invocation and the pastor speaks it in the absolution.*

Video - Yahweh — Lord

Watch the *Yahweh - LORD* video on the BibleProject Youtube page (<https://youtu.be/eLrGM26pmMo>). This video will cover the meaning of God's personal name and the journey behind all the different names Jews and Christians have referred to their creator throughout the centuries.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- Who asked for God's name?
- What does the Hebrew word *ehyeh* mean?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?

- *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
- *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Exodus 3:1-17

Grab your Bibles and turn to Exodus 3:1-17. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- What questions does Moses ask God?
- What does God say in response to Moses's questions?
- The Hebrew word *ehyeh* (which God gives as his name) is often translated in English Bibles as I AM WHO I AM, but it could just as rightfully be translated, I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE. Where else does God say he will be in this Bible reading? (*Hint: check out verse 12*)
- How might God's two answers to Moses be related to God's name combined with water to make baptism?

Video - Gospel

Watch the *Gospel* video on the BibleProject YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/HT41M013X3A>). This video covers one of the most common words in a Christian's vocabulary and what it meant in the original languages of the Bible.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to you can use some of the following questions.

- According to the video, what did Jesus claim?
- What good news (*euangelion*) did Jesus tell his followers to spread?
- What did Jesus say living in God's kingdom meant?
- What things are different in Jesus's kingdom?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Again, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Again, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions too and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Matthew 28:16-20

Grab your Bibles again. This time turn to Matthew 28:16-20. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you). Then, review the vocabulary word below and discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Disciple

Student, one who learns; Christian disciples are those who listen and learn the way of life from Jesus

- What did Jesus says was given to him (and who do you think gave it to him)?
 - *See verse 18*
- What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?
 - *See verses 19-20*
- What name did Jesus tell them to baptize people in?
 - *See verse 19*
- What promise does Jesus make?
 - *See verse 20*

PARENTS SAY: God shows that he does not intend to be a god who simply exists somewhere far off. He isn't just milling about, twiddling his thumbs, waiting for us to call on him or for things to get bad enough to intervene. He is not the God who turns away from us. He is the God who is with his people.

This is the Gospel, the good news of God's name: that he is the God who draws near to us. So near that he is as much in us as he is next to us. This he does by putting his name on us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Martin Luther wrote in his *Large Catechism*, "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God himself."

God's name is a word of promise to us. "I will be who I will be, that is, I will be with you." He sent the living, breathing embodiment of his promise, Jesus, to fulfill and continue this promise to us. And, Jesus calls us to announce this promise, this good news, this gospel, to others and baptize them in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this way, God unites us to Jesus, forgives our sins, makes us his children, and gives us new life.

Some questions to see what you learned

Review the following questions with your child to see what they learned and reinforce the information; grab a pen or pencil to record their answers

1. What is Holy Baptism and who instituted it?
2. What does God's name (I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE) which he gave to Moses say about him?
3. What do the words "institute" and "disciple" mean?
4. What promises do God and Jesus make in the Bible readings for this lesson?
5. In whose name does Jesus tell us to baptize and why that name?

Closing Prayer

Close your time of study with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks with our whole hearts because you have shown us your grace and mercy by giving us your holy name and promising to always be with us. Amen.

Lesson Two: The Name in Which We Baptize

Review the following before you begin

Things you'll need for this lesson:

- Bibles for those going through the lesson
- A copy of Luther's Small Catechism
 - If you don't have or can't find a physical copy, you can download the Small Catechism app in your smart device's app store or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/> to view it online.
- An electronic device that can play YouTube videos
 - We'll be using videos from BibleProject www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject/
- A pen or pencil for recording your student's answers at the end of the lesson

LEARNER GOAL: At the end of this lesson, students should know the basics outline of the Apostles' Creed and what it teaches about the God whose name we baptize in.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *This lesson will be structured a little differently and may take longer than the other lessons. Instead of one catechism reading, there will be three. Instead of two videos and two corresponding Bible readings, there will be three of each. This lesson covers the Apostles' Creed and Luther's explanations found in the Small Catechism. That said, it will serve as a general overview of the Creed with the goal of connecting it to Holy Baptism. The Creed and Luther's explanations are a deep well of teaching and comfort and are worth returning to and drawing from again and again.*

Introduction

PARENTS SAY: God puts his name on us in Holy Baptism. In the first lesson, we learned what it means to be baptized in God's name, that it is God himself who baptizes us. But who is this God who baptizes us in his name through the hands and speech of another (usually a pastor)? And what does it look like for God to be with us always as Jesus promised in Matthew 28:20?

In this lesson, we'll learn the answers to these questions and more by looking at the Apostles' Creed and Luther's explanations of it in his Small Catechism.

When teaching the Apostles' Creed, Luther divided it into three parts, often referred to as articles. His explanations of each article or part teach us who God is, what he has done and continues to do for us, and what he has given and continues to give us.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the second chief part entitled, "The Creed" or "The Apostles' Creed" and read the first article, "Creation" which begins, "I believe in God the Father..." Then read Luther's explanation to the question, "What does this mean?"

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Creed

A statement of belief; from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe"

According to the first article and its explanation:

- What has God the Father done for us and given to us?
- What does God the Father continue to do for us?
- Why does God the Father do all this for us?

Video - God

Watch the *God* video on the BibleProject Youtube page (<https://youtu.be/eAvYmE2YYIU>). This video will explore the complex identity of God displayed in the storyline of the Bible, and (surprise!) it all leads to Jesus.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- According to the video, what is the Bible's claim about God?
- What is a common way that God appears in the Bible and breaks our categories?
- How do the gospels portray Jesus?
- How did Jesus refer to and experience God?
- What did Jesus promise would happen through the Spirit of God?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Matthew 6:25-34

Grab your Bibles and turn to Matthew 6:25-34. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- What does Jesus say about God the Father in this passage?
- What does Jesus tell us to do and not do in this passage?
- Why does Jesus tell us to seek God's kingdom first and not to worry or be anxious about clothing, food, and what tomorrow brings?

PARENTS SAY: Knowing who God is and what he is like can be hard and overwhelming. Luther, in his Small Catechism, following Jesus's words in Matthew 6 (which we just read and talked about) and other places in Scripture, teaches us that God is our good and gracious Father who seeks our good. He knows our needs and meets them. We'll see this even more in the next part of the Apostles' Creed.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the second chief part entitled, "The Creed" or "The Apostles' Creed" and read the second article, "Redemption" which begins, "I believe in Jesus Christ..." Then read Luther's explanation to the question, "What does this mean?"

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Redemption

To buy something back that was lost, as in to rescue or save

According to the second article and its explanation:

- Who is God the Son and who is he to us?
- What has God the Son done for us and how did he do it?
- Why did God the Son do this for us?

Video - John 1 — Word Becomes Human

Watch the *John 1 — Word Becomes Human* video on the BibleProject Youtube page (<https://youtu.be/XgslCbXOOIE>). This video will cover how John begins his Gospel account by introducing Jesus as the Word of God, echoing the opening chapters of Genesis, where God created life through his spoken word. And when the world needed a new beginning, God's divine word spoke again. This time, the word became a human named Jesus.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- How does the Gospel of John begin?
- What does John claim we need to do to understand who Jesus is?
- What two books of the Bible does John draw imagery from in chapter 1?
- How did the eternal word of God enter into creation?
- Who has made known the God whom no one has ever seen?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Mark 10:35-45

Grab your Bibles and turn to Mark 10:35-45. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- What happened in this passage?
- What is Jesus talking about when he says, “the cup that I drink” and “the baptism with which I am baptized”?
- What did Jesus say he came to do? *hint: see verse 45*

PARENTS SAY: John begins his gospel by telling us that Jesus, the Son of God, came to make God known to us. Luther, in his Small Catechism, shows us how Jesus came to do that. He came to serve us and fulfill our greatest need, the forgiveness of our sins. He gave his life as a ransom for us. He brings us from the kingdom of the devil where sin and death reign to his kingdom where forgiveness and mercy triumph.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the second chief part entitled, “The Creed” or “The Apostles' Creed” and read the third article, “Sanctification” which begins, “I believe in the Holy Spirit...” Then read Luther's explanation to the question, “What does this mean?”

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Sanctification
to be “made holy” or “set apart”

According to the third article and its explanation:

- According to Luther’s explanation of this article, what can’t we do?
- What does God the Holy Spirit do and how does he do it?
- What will God the Holy Spirit do on the last day and for whom will he do it?

Video - Holy Spirit

Watch the *Holy Spirit* video on the BibleProject Youtube page (<https://youtu.be/oNNZOqiuGjc>). This video will explore the original meaning of the biblical concept of “spirit” and what it means that God’s Spirit is personally present in all of creation.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- Where do you start to know who the Holy Spirit is?
- In what different ways can the Hebrew word *ruakh* be translated and understood?
- In what ways is God’s Spirit at work in Jesus’s ministry?
- How does the story of the Bible end?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn’t understand?
 - *Parents, don’t hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn’t understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - John 15:26 & 16:13-15

Grab your Bibles and turn to John 15:26 and 16:13-15. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit in these two passages?
- What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do and say in these passages?

PARENTS SAY: In the third article of the Apostles' Creed we confess that we cannot believe. Not on our own. We need help. This is where the Holy Spirit, the Helper, helps us. He tells us about Jesus's death and resurrection for us. He tells us that our sins are forgiven and that eternal life is ours. He calls us by this gospel to faith in Jesus. He does so through God's word and his sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

In Holy Baptism, God puts his name on us, and with his name comes all of him. The articles of the Apostles' Creed and Luther's explanations teach us that God gives us not only all that we need for this body and life, but all of himself in Jesus. He gives us everything we need to believe in him: the forgiveness of sins, faith and trust in him, and salvation that leads to life everlasting.

Some questions to see what you learned

Review the following questions with your child to see what they learned and reinforce the information; grab a pen or pencil to record their answers

1. What does the Apostles' Creed teach us about God?
2. What does the Apostles' Creed teach us about us and what we need?
3. What do the words "creed," "redemption," and "sanctification" mean?
4. What does the Apostles' Creed show us about God's works for us in baptism?

Closing Prayer

Close your time of study with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you because you have given us not only all that we need for this body and life but all of you in Christ and all that we need to believe in you. Amen.

Lesson Three: What Benefits Does Baptism Give?

Review the following before you begin

Things you'll need for this lesson:

- Bibles for those going through the lesson
- A copy of Luther's Small Catechism
 - If you don't have or can't find a physical copy, you can download the Small Catechism app in your smart device's app store or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/> to view it online.
- An electronic device that can play YouTube videos
 - We'll be using videos from BibleProject www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject/
- A pen or pencil for recording your student's answers at the end of the lesson

LEARNER GOAL: At the end of this lesson, students should have a basic understanding of the term "sin" and know that baptism works forgiveness, rescues from death and the devil and gives eternal life.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *As you've gone through the lessons the question of baptizing babies, also called infant baptism, may have come up either in questions from your students or yourself. If they haven't, that's O.K. too. That topic will be addressed in the next lesson (lesson four), and why infants and those who do have intellectual disabilities can and should be baptized.*

Introduction

PARENTS SAY: In lesson one, we learned that in baptism God puts his name on us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In lesson two, we looked at the Apostles' Creed and what it teaches us about the God who puts his name on us in Holy Baptism—that God not only gives us all we need to live, but also all of himself in Jesus and all that we need to believe in him.

In lesson three, we'll learn about the gifts God gives us in baptism. The benefits baptism gives are an important part of daily remembering our baptism (the name of this series of lessons). We'll also learn why we need God to freely give us these gifts through the water and words of Holy Baptism.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the fourth chief part entitled, "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" and read the second main question, "What benefits does Baptism give?" and Luther's answer. Then read its follow-up question, "Which are these words and promises of God?" and Luther's answer.

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Sin

To fail or miss the mark; the most common word in the Bible to describe humanity's fallen condition and the actions that result from it.

- What is the first benefit promised in Holy Baptism?
 - *A: The forgiveness of sins*
- Is this the only benefit given?
 - *A: No. It also rescues us from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation.*
- Who needs these benefits and why?
 - *A: We do because we are sinners and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)*

Video - Sin

Watch the *Sin* video on the BibleProject Youtube page (<https://youtu.be/aNOZ7ocLD74>). This video will cover the basic definition of the word sin and how the Biblical authors use it to talk about humanity and Jesus.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- What is the basic meaning of the word sin?
- If the basic definition of sin is to fail or miss the mark or goal, what is the goal?
- Why is the story of Jesus such good news for sinners?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*

- *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

PARENTS SAY: Sin is more than minor mistakes or accidents. It's also more than outward action—things we think, say, or do. It is something that lives within us and enslaves us (see Romans 6:6). It is such a part of us that it affects everything we think, say, or do.

No matter how hard we try, we can't stop sinning (see Romans 7:15-16). This sin that lives within us, we call **original sin**. Original sin is the sinful condition you received from us (your parents) and which we received from our parents (your grandparents) and so on all the way back to Adam and Eve, the first sinners. Original sin causes us to distrust God and dislike those he has put in our lives—parents, friends, teachers, and others.

The mean and harmful things we think, say, or do to those around us because we don't trust God we call **actual sin**. We need forgiveness for the things we do *and* the sinful condition that leads us to do them. Thankfully, God gave us baptism to give us the forgiveness we need.

Bible Reading - Genesis 6:5-14, 17-19; 7:1, 11-16; 8:1, 20-22; 9:1, 8-17

Grab your Bibles and turn to Genesis 6:5-14, 17-19; 7:1, 11-16; 8:1, 20-22; 9:1, 8-17. Read these passages aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read.

Use some of the following questions:

- What did the Lord see on the earth and in human hearts?
- What things does God do for Noah and his family?
- What promise (or covenant) did God make after the flood?

Video - Water of Life

Watch the *Water of Life* video on the BibleProject YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/PgmAkM39Zt4>). This video covers the “water of life” theme through the biblical story and shows how it leads to Jesus, who presents himself as the one bringing living water to a world that is desperately thirsty.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to you can use some of the following questions.

- What is the result of all of humanity's efforts to quench its own thirst on its own terms?
- How does the prophet Ezekiel describe the nation of Israel in exile?
- What kind of water is Jesus offering the woman at the well?
- What do the water and blood flowing from Jesus's side show us?

- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Again, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Again, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions too and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22

Grab your Bibles again. This time turn to 1 Peter 3:18-22. Read it aloud. Then, review the vocabulary word below and discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Forgiveness

To let go or release from punishment; to cancel a debt

- What does Peter say corresponds to baptism?
 - *See verse 20*
- What does Peter say baptism now does?
 - *See verse 21*
- How does baptism do what Peter says it does?
 - *See verse 21*

PARENTS SAY: Sin is a part of our lives that we cannot escape without God. At one point, sin ruled the world so much that God sent a flood to cleanse the world of it. But sin remained in Noah and his family and so it remains in us.

We could ask, “why did God send a flood if it did not solve humanity’s sin problem?” First, we see that God could have started over altogether. He had the power to uncreate his creation. Second, while we see God show that power, we also see that he doesn’t use it to solve our sin problem. Instead, he makes a promise never to use it like that again.

God had a different plan to solve our sin problem. His plan didn’t involve the death of all living creatures on the earth, but the death of his Son for the forgiveness of all our sins. When we think of our baptism this is what we should remember our baptism. In baptism, we are forgiven. And with that forgiveness, God rescued us from what sin earns which is

death (Romans 6:23) and saves us from the one who use to have the power of death, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

Some questions to see what you learned

Review the following questions with your child to see what they learned and reinforce the information; grab a pen or pencil to record their answers

1. What else do the baptized receive when they are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. What does Jesus promise in Mark 16:16?
3. What's the difference between original sin and actual sin?
4. What do the words "sin" and "forgiveness" mean?
5. According to 1 Peter 3:18-22, what does baptism do?

Closing Prayer

Close your time of study with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the gifts you give us in Holy Baptism, namely, the forgiveness of our sins, rescue from the death and the devil, and eternal life. In good times and in bad, help us to always remember these gifts. Amen.

Lesson Four: How can water do such great things?

Review the following before you begin

Things you'll need for this lesson:

- Bibles for those going through the lesson
- A copy of Luther's Small Catechism
 - If you don't have or can't find a physical copy, you can download the Small Catechism app in your smart device's app store or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/> to view it online.
- An electronic device that can play YouTube videos
 - We'll be using videos from BibleProject www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject/
- A pen or pencil for recording your student's answers at the end of the lesson

LEARNER GOAL: At the end of this lesson, students should understand what faith is and its importance in Holy Baptism. They should also know that baptism is a work God does for everyone, regardless of intellectual abilities.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *The third main question Luther presents about baptism is tied to his answer to the second main question. It could be helpful to review that during the Small Catechism Reading or before the lesson.*

This lesson will also cover infant baptism and the baptism of those whom some Christian traditions would consider intellectually incapable of confessing faith in Jesus. It could be helpful to review that section before going through this lesson.

Introduction

PARENTS SAY: So far we've learned that in Baptism God puts his name on us—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We also learned who God is and that he not only gives us all we need to live, but also all of himself in Jesus and all that we need to believe in him. In our last lesson, we learned what God gives us in Holy Baptism.

In this lesson, we'll learn about *how* baptism can do what does. We'll learn about faith and the role of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism. We'll also learn about how the gifts that God gives in baptism—forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal life—are for everyone regardless of age or intellectual ability.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the fourth chief part entitled, "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" and read the third main question, "How can water do such great things?" and Luther's answer.

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Faith,

Trust, or confidence in someone or something; to believe

- What gives Holy Baptism the power to do such great things (forgive sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal life)?
 - *A: The word of God*
- What trusts in the word of God in the water?
 - *A: Faith*
- Which person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is working through the water and word of baptism?
 - *A: The Holy Spirit*

Video - Faithful

Watch the *Faithful* video on the BibleProject YouTube page (https://youtu.be/HCLuq_507_o). This video will cover what it means when the Bible calls God faithful and how because of Jesus we can know God's faithfulness.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- Why does Moses call God a rock?
- Who is the first person in the Bible who consider God to be trustworthy and why?
- How do we know God is faithful?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

PARENTS SAY: To believe in God, to have faith in him, and consider him trustworthy is impossible for us to do on our own. That’s because sin has made us distrustful of God from the start. We’re constantly tempted to doubt God’s word and not trust in him.

But sin and mistrusting God is not a “grown-up” problem. It is a problem for *all* people, children included. David in Psalm 51:15 wrote, “Behold, I was brought forth in inquiry, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

So how do we come to believe in God or have faith in him and how do we know we have faith? The good news is God knows we can’t trust in him on our own and because he is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, he gives us what we need.

In baptism, the Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus’ death and resurrection and creates the faith in us we need to believe in Jesus and his words of promise. In baptism, the Holy Spirit washes us clean from sin with a life-giving water, rich in God’s grace. In baptism, we receive the faith we need to believe that the gospel applies to us, that we are freely forgiven of our sins because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Bible Reading - John 3:1-17

Grab your Bibles and turn to John 3:1-17. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- According to Jesus, how does one *see* and *enter* the kingdom of God?
- What does Jesus say about the (Holy) Spirit in the passage?
- What might Jesus have meant in verses 14 & 15? (You can read Numbers 21:4-9 for more context on Jesus’s words)
- For what purpose did God *give* and *send* his Son?

Video - Psalm 8

Watch the *Psalm 8* video on the BibleProject YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/d-xvaK4wIw>). This video explores why God cares so much about us as powerless, created beings, why are we compared to babbling babies, and God’s purpose for humanity and all creation.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to you can use some of the following questions.

- What is Psalm 8 about?
- To what tasks does God elevate the “dirt creatures,” humans?
- Who is hailing Jesus as their king?

- What kind of power does Jesus call his followers to share with him?
- What was something new that you learned?
 - *Again, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Again, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions too and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Luke 14:15-24

Grab your Bibles again. This time turn to Luke 14:15-24. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you). Then, review the vocabulary word below and discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Sacrament

A sacred act instituted by Christ in which he joins his word of promise to a visible element and by which he offers forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

- In Jesus's parable, what excuses did people give for not coming to the banquet?
 - *See verses 17-20*
- What did the master do in response to all the excuses?
 - *See verses 21-23*
- What did all the other people do to get invited to the banquet?
 - *Nothing, they were invited because the master chose to invite them.*

Baptizing infants & others who might not be able to say out loud that they believe in Jesus

PARENTS SAY: Jesus's parable in Luke 14 shows us that just like the master, it is God who brings people into the kingdom. We also learn that like the poor, crippled, blind, and lame and those who were far off, we don't do anything to get an invite, it is God who does all the work.

Baptism is the sure and certain way God brings sinful people (us) into his kingdom. The power of baptism is not in the water, but in the word of God that is added to the water. The Holy Spirit uses that word (God's name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to wash us clean from sin and create faith in us to trust in God.

Numerous Christian traditions teach and believe that baptism is something we do to show others (and God) the work God has done in us and our commitment to him. They may say that baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. They go on to say then that only those who confess faith in Jesus can be baptized.

Remember, sin is not just a problem for grown-ups; it is a problem for all people, including us and including you.

As we've seen in our lesson, Holy Baptism is not our work but God's work in our lives. We've also seen that faith in God is not something we can create in ourselves. We need God to create our trust in him. He does this by means of his Word preached by a pastor, by his Word added to the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and by adding his Word to the waters of baptism.

The Bible shows us that baptism is for everyone regardless of age or intellectual ability. In Mark 10:13-16, Jesus says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

In Matthew 28:19, he commands the apostles (and us) to, "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." "*All nations*" means all people, children or otherwise.

In Acts 2:38-39, Peter says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Baptism is for everyone whom God calls to himself and God calls not just some people, but all people to himself. He does so because he loves us and wants everyone to be saved from sin and death (1 Tim. 2:3-6).

David, in Psalm 22:9-10, said, "Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breast. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God." The Holy Spirit can create faith in anyone including babies or those who might not be able to say out loud that they believe in Jesus.

Some questions to see what you learned

Review the following questions with your child to see what they learned and reinforce the information; grab a pen or pencil to record their answers

1. What gives Holy Baptism the power to do such great things (forgive sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal life)?
2. How do we come to believe in God or have faith in him?
3. What did John 3:1-17 teach us about entering into God's kingdom and why God sent his Son, Jesus?
4. What do the words "faith" and "sacrament" mean?
5. What did Psalm 8 and Luke 14:15-24 help us understand about baptizing infants and those whom some Christian traditions would consider intellectually incapable of confessing faith in Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Close your time of study with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your grace in calling all people to yourself regardless of age or ability in the water and word of Holy Baptism. Amen.

Lesson Five: What Does Baptism Indicate?

Review the following before you begin

Things you'll need for this lesson:

- Bibles for those going through the lesson
- A copy of Luther's Small Catechism
 - If you don't have or can't find a physical copy, you can download the Small Catechism app in your smart device's app store or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/> to view it online.
- An electronic device that can play YouTube videos
 - We'll be using videos from BibleProject www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject/
- A pen or pencil for recording your student's answers at the end of the lesson

LEARNER GOAL: At the end of this lesson, students should understand what it means to remember their baptism and that baptism is not a mere past event, but a present everyday reality of life.

Introduction

PARENTS SAY: We've made it to the last lesson! Let's remember what we've learned so far. In lesson one, we learned that in Baptism God puts his name on us—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In lesson two, we learned who God is and that he not only gives us all we need to live, but also all of himself in Jesus and all that we need to believe in him. In lesson three, we learned what God gives us in Holy Baptism. And, in lesson four, we learned that baptism can do what it does because of God's word added to the water.

In our final lesson, we'll learn that we never outgrow our baptism, what it means to remember our baptism, and that while we only need to be baptized once, the benefits of our baptism (what we talked about in the lesson before this one) are given to us daily, again and again.

Small Catechism Reading

Open your copy of Luther's Small Catechism (or go to <https://catechism.cph.org/>) and turn to the fourth chief part entitled, "The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" and read the fourth main question, "What does such baptizing with water indicate?" and Luther's answer. Then read its follow-up question, "Where is this written?" and Luther's answer.

Review the vocabulary word below, then ask the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Repentance,

To be turned or to turn from one thing to another; a change of mind

- What does baptizing in God's Word added to the water indicate about the Old Adam in us? (*The Old Adam is a way of talking about our sinful nature we inherited from Adam and Eve.*)
 - *A: That it should daily be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires*
- What does baptizing in God's Word added to the water indicate about the "new man" or new us?
 - *A: That it should daily emerge and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity*
- While we only need to be baptized once, how often should this dying and rise happen in our lives?
 - *A: Daily*

Video - Image of God

Watch the *Image of God* video on the BibleProject YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/YbipxLDtY8c>). This video looks at how our human vocation as co-workers with God has been compromised by our selfishness and evil, and how Jesus opens up a new way of being human through his life, death, and resurrection.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to, you can use some of the following questions:

- Why aren't people supposed to make images of God?
- What task did God give to humans and how did we mess it up?
- Why did the New Testament writers call Jesus "*the image of God*" and "*the new human?*"
- What did the Apostle Paul say this new human life (one transformed by Jesus's life, death, and resurrection) looks like for us?
- What was something new that you learned?

- *Parents, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Parents, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - Romans 6:1-11

Grab your Bibles and turn to Romans 6:1-11. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you); then, discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

- What does Paul say baptism does?
- What does Paul say about those who have died to sin?
- What does Paul say we must consider ourselves?

PARENTS SAY: The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, tells us that Holy Baptism unites us to Jesus's death and resurrection. It transforms us. Through baptism, we die to sin and we have a new life in Christ.

But our new life isn't perfect. Not yet. We still struggle with sin every day. The good news is that baptism is not just something that happened in the past. It's part of everyday life. We don't say, "I was baptized." We say, "I am baptized."

Martin Luther's fourth question on baptism (which we read at the beginning of our lesson) asks, "What does such baptizing with water indicate?" This is another way of asking, "What does Baptism have to do with my daily life?" Let's learn about that next.

Video - Sacrifice and Atonement

Watch the Sacrifice and Atonement video on the BibleProject YouTube page (https://youtu.be/G_OlRWGLdnw). This video discusses God's "covering" over human evil through animal sacrifices that ultimately point to Jesus' death and resurrection.

Discuss what you saw in the video. If you need to you can use some of the following questions.

- What do the previously commanded animal sacrifices point to?
- What does Jesus's death provide for us?
- Describe baptism and what it does for us
- What do the "new rituals" of baptism and the Lord's Supper do?
- What was something new that you learned?

- *Again, feel free to share something you learned*
- Was there anything in the video that was weird, confusing, or that you didn't understand?
 - *Again, don't hesitate to share something that was weird or confusing to you or that you didn't understand.*
 - *Also, feel free to write down these questions too and try to find the answers throughout the week.*

Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Grab your Bibles again. This time turn to 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Read it aloud (consider taking turns with those with you). Then, review the vocabulary word below and discuss what you read. Use some of the following questions:

VOCABULARY: Righteousness

A right relationship with God given to us by Jesus in exchange for our sinfulness

- If someone is in Christ what are they?
 - *See verse 17*
- What did God do through Christ?
 - *See verse 19*
- Paul writes, "For our sake he made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin;" why did Jesus become sin for us?
 - *See verse 21*

PARENTS SAY: Our new life in Christ, our Christian life is not lived in our righteousness. We can't earn a right relationship with God by what we do. Instead, we live in Jesus's right relationship with God, his righteousness. Paul also wrote, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:17). Baptism clothes us with Jesus's righteousness.

But because we still sin, this means that every day of our new life in Jesus we should remember and return to our baptism. Said another way, to remember your baptism is to remember that we are baptized and that we are forgiven.

We do this every Sunday when we make the sign of the cross, which we are marked with at our baptism. But we can also remember our baptisms when we wash our hands and bodies and we can remember the benefits of our baptism when we look at the cross.

Some questions to see what you learned

Review the following questions with your child to see what they learned and reinforce the information; grab a pen or pencil to record their answers

1. What does Holy Baptism have to do with daily life?
2. What did Romans 6:1-11 teach us about baptism?
3. What do the words “repentance” and “righteousness” mean?
4. Where does our righteousness come from?

Closing Prayer

Close your time of study with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, giver of life, look with kindness upon our family. Let us always rejoice in the gifts you have given us, especially those in baptism. Strengthen us in our baptism so we may share eternally together in the salvation you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LESSON 5 APPENDIX - FORTHCOMING

PUT THIS NOTE AT BEGINNING OF LESSON

NOTE TO PARENTS: *Two things are included at the end of this lesson. One is information about baptismal sponsors. The other is an example of a baptismal liturgy/service.*

This is good to review with your child(ren) whether or not they are baptized. This will also be helpful as you consider baptismal sponsors for your child(ren) or if you have been asked to consider being a baptismal sponsor.

Baptismal Sponsors

Baptismal Sponsors are a common part of Holy Baptism. But what are they and what's their purpose? What should be considered in choosing them? What if someone asks me to consider being one?

What Are Baptismal Sponsors and What's Their Purpose?

Baptismal Sponsors, often called godparents, are a common tradition in baptism, especially for infants and children. But even adult candidates for baptism have sponsors.

Things to Consider In Choosing Baptismal Sponsors

TK

Things to Consider If Asked to Be a Baptismal Sponsor

TK

Example of Baptism Liturgy/Service

TK