

Series: Re-born

Lesson 4: Baptism

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Interact with Scripture passages about adoption into a heavenly family.
- Interact with Scripture passages about adoption into an earthly community, the church.
- Articulate and find images for their desire to go forward with baptism.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ double-sided handouts of A-9 and A-10
- ☐ pens
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Scrap paper
- ☐ Prizes (optional)

Lead In:

This is a guessing game, dictation, and group bonding lead in that also introduces the topic.

Each student needs two pieces of paper and a pen. Ask each student to write down a favourite birthday memory and his or her name on one piece of paper. For example, when I was four I had a rocking Baskin Robbins 3D rabbit cake and a pretty blue dress; it was an awesome birthday! I would write this down on one paper. Have each student hand in his or her written down memory. When they are all collected, ask the students to number their page for the number of people in the group. If you have four students, write down numbers one through four on the second piece of paper. Now read all of the submitted memories, so that the first one you read is number one and so on. Those listening must guess who submitted the memory.

Give feedback. Read the memories again with the names and mark the dictation. Select a winner. Give prizes if desired.

Task One:

Put the students in pairs and give each person or pair a double-sided handout of pages A-9 and A-10 and a pen. Instruct the pairs to complete Task One on the handout. When the groups are done, solicit the correct answers from the whole class. Numbers one, three, six, seven, nine, eleven, and twelve are correct. Numbers two, four, five, eight, and ten are incorrect. A note on number eight: if you read Acts 10 and 16 you will find that entire households were baptized, which leaves open the possibility that not all had repented. While Baptists traditionally make a theological decision that baptism must follow repentance, this is not a clear teaching of Scripture. Clarify and correct the answers as needed.

Task Two:

Instruct the groups to go on to Task Two on the handout. When the groups are done, solicit the correct answers from the whole class. Numbers two, three, six, seven, ten, eleven, twelve are correct. Numbers one, five, eight, and nine are incorrect. Clarify and correct as needed.

Closing:

Ask each student to describe why they want to go forward to baptism or what they are most excited for. Students may say things like, “I want to tell everyone that I am a Christian” or “I have been a Christian for some time and now I want to make it public” or “I am so excited to make my faith a life-long commitment”. Have the listening students identify the most frequent reasons that people want to go forward or are excited. Work together as a whole class to name this excitement or make a metaphor for it. You could reuse the birthday party image that has been used already in the lesson or create new ones. For example, in the made up examples above, a common image was proclamation or telling. You could choose a symbol like a loud speaker to represent baptism. Why not consider finding a pin or little gift for each student that uses the image?

Bring the lesson to a close and pray together.