

More Than a Name

Module: WHO ARE YOU?

Addendum 1: Baptist History

Objectives:

- Students will be able to understand our identity as Baptists.
- Students will be able to recognize that they can live a life of significance.

Materials Needed

- ☐ Copies of Handout #1

Minds On

Say something like: If you are here today then you are most likely part of a youth group associated with a Baptist church. Today we are going to spend some time asking the question “What does it mean to be a Baptist?” We have spent the last few weeks talking about our self identities. Today we are going to look at our identities as Baptists.

Ask them to vote what they think the word “Baptist” or “baptize” means based on one of the following options:

- 1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
- 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one’s self, bathe
- 3) to overwhelm

(Leader’s note: All three primary meanings actually come from the Greek word baptize.)

The Baptist church emerged in the 19th century and stemmed from the Anabaptist movement. Anabaptist literally means re-baptizer. The re-baptizers were churches that did not believe in infant baptism and sought to re-baptize adult believers. The earliest records of churches using the name Baptist come from 1569.

Our own denomination, the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, was formed in 1880 and was known as the Baptist Union of Canada. Presently our denomination is comprised of over 350 churches.

Say something like: This brief look at our history illustrates that the foundational belief that our denomination was founded on was adult baptism. In total there are seven core beliefs that Baptists hold distinct. For the next few minutes we are going to look at these seven distinctives.

Action

Divide your group into smaller groups of 3 or 4 and have them work through Handout #1. Give them 10 to 15 minutes to read through the passages and work on what each of the distinctives means to them. Then, bring the groups back together and, as a large group, go over the handout.

It will be very important that you help your students understand what each of the distinctives means to us.

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: We've covered a lot of material in this lesson. To conclude our look at Baptists we're going to take a moment to talk about some Baptists who've made an impact in society. To highlight a few here are some names to consider: Billy Graham, Johnny Cash, John Grisham, Chuck Norris, Kevin Costner, Martin Luther King Jr., and Abraham Lincoln.

Closer to home notable members of the CBOQ have included the Biles family, owners of Canadian Tire. As well, William McMaster is remembered through the University that bears his name. McMaster also started the CIBC bank and served in the Canadian senate.

The CBOQ has also had an impact around the world. The present day Union of Bolivian Baptists exists because of the work of missionaries. The mission field in Bolivia was begun by Archibald Reekie. Many missionaries have followed in his footsteps including Norman Dabbs. Norman became the first CBOQ martyr when he was killed while serving.

Wrap up this lesson by encouraging the youth that they too can make a difference, which starts by not allowing anyone other than God to determine what they are worth. They must focus on who made them and how they were made if they want to change their world.

Close your time with prayer.

Handout 1**Baptist Distinctives**

Distinctive	Bible Reference	What it Means to Us
Jesus is Lord	Phil. 2:1-11	
Word of God as Authority	2 Timothy 3:16,17	
Priesthood of All Believers	1 Peter 2:5-9	
A Believers' Church	2 Cor. 6:14-18	
Believer's Baptism by Immersion	Acts 2:41-47	
Congregational Government	Col. 1:18 Matt. 18:15-17 Rev. 2-3	
Separation of Church and State	Matthew 22:15-22	