

The Sacraments

Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to identify the Holy Sacraments and explain their differences.
2. The children will explore why we need the Holy Sacraments in our lives.

Memory Verse: ***“No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit.” --John 3:5***

Getting Started

All Messed Up

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Object Talks → “All Messed Up”

You will need an old (simple) puzzle and scissors for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will need to put the puzzle together before class and have it on your table ready to go.

The point of this activity is to remind the children that God made us in his image. We were perfect and without sin, until we decided to act against His Will. After Adam and Eve sinned, we became disconnected from God. We have tried unsuccessfully to put things back together. In today’s lesson, we will explore how the Holy Sacraments have helped restore us and our relationship with God. *Continue with the lesson.*

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: ***The Kingdom of God is waiting for you.***

Holy Baptism:

John 3:5

⁵ Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

Acts 8:36, 38

³⁶⁻³⁷As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

³⁸ He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water. Philip baptized him.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

Holy Sealing:

John 3:5

⁵ Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ The apostles in Jerusalem heard that people in Samaria had accepted God's word. So they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived there, they prayed that the believers would receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ The Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them. And they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6

Paul Goes to Ephesus

¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road to Ephesus. When he arrived, he found some believers there. ² He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

"No," they answered. "We haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

⁴ Paul said, "John baptized people, calling them to turn away from their sins. He told them to believe in the one who was coming after him. Jesus is that one." ⁵ After hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Paul placed his hands on them. Then the Holy Spirit came on them. They spoke in languages they had not known before. They also prophesied.

Holy Communion:

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹ Then Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to them and said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do it in memory of me."

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you.

John 6:53-57

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "What I'm about to tell you is true. You must eat the Son of Man's body and drink his blood. If you don't, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise him up on the last day.

⁵⁵ "My body is real food. My blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood remains in me. And I remain in him.

⁵⁷ "The living Father sent me, and I live because of him. In the same way, those who feed on me will live because of me.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶ When we give thanks for the cup at the Lord's Supper, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? When we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Just as there is one loaf, so we who are many are one body. We all eat from the one loaf.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

1 Corinthians 10:21; 11:23-28

²¹ You can't drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too. You can't have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

²³ I passed on to you what I received from the Lord. On the night the Lord Jesus was handed over to his enemies, he took bread. ²⁴ When he had given thanks, he broke it. He said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do it in memory of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do it in memory of me."

²⁶ When you eat the bread and drink the cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

²⁷ So do not eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in a way that isn't worthy of him. If you do, you will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸ A person should take a careful look at himself before he eats the bread and drinks from the cup.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is so important about Jesus' message in John 3:5? (*It tells us that both Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing are essential to be a part of God's Kingdom.*)
2. What is someone baptized with? (*Water.*)
3. What are some things a person must believe and be willing to do in order to become baptized? (*Jesus in our Redeemer and we are committed to following Him; one must be willing and strive to overcome sin.*)
4. When a person is to be baptized and approaches the altar, what are some events that happen? (*The water is consecrated with a prayer; the minister moistens a finger and makes a cross three times on the forehead of the person being baptized; at the same time the following is spoken: I baptize you in the name of the God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* – Children may not know this – demonstrate for them on a person or a doll.)
5. Should children be baptized? (*Look up Mark 10:14: "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them."*)
6. What is needed for the act of Holy Sealing? (*1. An Apostle. 2. 'laying on of hands'*)
7. Which sacrament is performed first? (Holy Baptism) Why does this make sense? (*First, we commit our lives to God, then we receive the gift from God, the Holy Spirit.*)
8. What are some things a person must believe in order to partake of Holy Sealing? (*The person must believe in and prepare for the return of Jesus. He must also believe in living Apostles and that they were and are still sent by Jesus Christ in order to prepare us for the Lord's return.*)
9. Is Holy Communion the same thing as getting your sins forgiven? (*No, they are two separate acts; however, they are tied into the same portion of the divine service.*)
10. If they are not the same thing which comes first? (*Forgiveness of sins.*)
11. When are your sins forgiven in a service and how do you know when they are forgiven? (*Almost right after the Lord's Prayer. The minister will pronounce the words "Your sins are forgiven..."*)
12. What do we get out of Holy Communion? Why do we take it? (*It is close fellowship with Jesus. We take it to always remember Jesus' suffering and death and what He did for us. We continue to take it until He comes again. Ultimately, communion can provide us with strength – strength from close fellowship with Jesus – strength like the strength Jesus needed to get through His ordeal.*)

Application to Real Life

How to Clean a Dirty Life

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Object Talks → “How to Clean a Dirty Life”

Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will need 2 buckets (one filled with mud and the other with clean soapy water), rags for cleaning, napkins, a small tarp or old plastic table cloth, and a chair for this activity.

As you complete the activity, pay close attention to the “What you will say” section. Help the children to understand that we are all born with sins that we inherit, and the role Baptism plays to remove that sin. We continue to sin each day anyway, and God still forgives our sins over and over again. The Holy Spirit can help us to change and work to make better choices in life, so we don’t repeat the same sins over and over. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we remember the sacrifice that the Lord Jesus made to die so that our sins could be forgiven, and allowing our souls to be cleaned over and over again because of the grace of our God. All of God’s Holy Sacraments play an important role in our lives. Discuss these concepts together. Remind the children of God’s love for them. Then review the message statement.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Pick one of the Holy Sacraments – ask the children to explain what it is and what it does for us.
4. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Holy Sacrament Matching

The children will match the (sacrament) characteristics with the correct sacrament.

Pre-class Procedure:

1. Make three cards, labeled: Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Holy Sealing.
2. Each of the following characteristic phrases is written on a separate index card:

Holy Baptism

First fundamental act of grace.

Washes away original sin.

After this sacrament, the person has a right to the earnings of Jesus Christ.

We promise to try to avoid sin; this sacrament can be dispensed by a priestly office.

The 6th article of faith

Holy Sealing

This sacrament, plus Holy Baptism defines the rebirth.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is given with this sacrament.

The 8th article of faith

This sacrament must be dispensed or given by an Apostle.

Holy Baptism must be performed first before this sacrament can be dispensed.

Activity Ideas – Continued

Holy Communion

The “body and blood of Jesus”.

This sacrament can be taken after a person is baptized.

The strength of the Lord Jesus is contained in this sacrament.

The first time this sacrament was celebrated was during Passover.

This sacrament represents fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

This sacrament is a remembrance of the bitter suffering and death of Jesus.

Class procedure

1. Place the 3 “title” cards out on the table. For a future reference piece for your class area, the results of the game can be glued onto a poster board.
2. Shuffle all the cards and put them face-down on the table.
3. Each student selects one card and places them with the associated sacrament. For additional review and challenge, the students could explain why they are placing the card in the category.
4. If incorrect, the card, is placed at the bottom of the stack.
5. Optional: points can be awarded, and a prize given for the most correct answers.

Journal

Choose One

A “sacrament” is a holy moment in which something happens to us spiritually and naturally. You may not remember when you were baptized or sealed, but certainly we all receive and experience Holy Communion on a regular basis. Write about how any one of the sacraments and learning about it more has brought you closer to God.

Describe in your own words what the sacraments do for us.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: **The Ministries of the Church of Christ** (Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 9:17; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Learn the Memory Verse: *“I will place shepherds over them who will take good care of them.*
--Jeremiah 23:4
- Learn the _____ Article of Faith
- Who is your favorite minister? Why is he so special to you? Write about him and bring it to class to share.

Take Home Page: The Sacraments

Today I learned...

Today your child was reminded that **the kingdom of God is waiting for us**. The children explored the Holy Sacraments and their differences, as well as why we need them in our lives.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit." --John 3:5

Ask me...

1. What are the Holy Sacraments?
2. Which of the Holy Sacraments do you find to be the most interesting? Why?

Live Your Faith...

Talk together as a family about forgiveness. Take turns sharing the things you each did that need forgiveness from your family members for this week, and genuinely ask for forgiveness. Pray together and thank God for His Sacraments, and for dying so that your sins could be forgiven.

