



Live Out Loud

Jesus is Baptized

BIG IDEA: Baptism gives us a picture of Jesus' amazing sacrifice.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 3; Matthew 3; Mark 1:29–34

KEY VERSE: "By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. And like Christ we also can have a new life." Romans 6:4 (NirV)

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

SOUND EFFECTS FACTORY

Directions: Explain to the kids in your group that during the "Live Out Loud" series, they're going to be providing sound effects for the Big Bible Story. For today's story, kids will be providing the sounds for the following:

- Wind Blowing
- Feet walking
- Snake Hissing

Practice the sounds ahead of time with your group. If you would like to make a competition out of it, have the kids go one at a time and then announce who you thought performed the best sound. Tell them to be prepared to do their sounds later during the Big Bible Story. When finished, ask the following questions:

Question: What do you know about baptism?

Question: Have you ever seen someone being baptized? What happened? What was it like?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down." Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.





★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. Why do you think baptism takes place in the water?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. If Jesus never sinned, why do you think it was part of God's holy plan that he be baptized?

WASHING OUR SINS AWAY (Application Activity)

Question: Today we learned that baptism shows us two different pictures. Do you remember what the pictures are? (*Answer: washing away sins and Jesus' death and resurrection.*)

Say: The reason that baptism takes place in the water is because it shows how God's forgiveness through Jesus washes our sins away. It's a picture of how God's grace cleans us on the inside. Being baptized doesn't mean that you'll never sin anymore, it just means that you believe God has forgiven you. We're going to do an activity right now that will give us another picture of what that's like.

Directions: Place a bin or bowl of water in the middle of your group. Give each kid in your group a washable marker. Tell them to think about what kind of sins they struggle with in their life. Tell them to write one of those sins somewhere on their hand. For younger kids who cannot write, you can tell them to color a dot onto their hand. The dot represents the stain that sin creates.

Next, remind your group how the people in our story today confessed their sins to John the Baptist before being baptized. Ask if anyone in the group would like to share what they wrote on their hand. (It's okay if some kids don't want to share.) After everyone has had a chance to share, open the group in prayer. Pray that your group would have the courage to turn from their sins and walk the other way. Thank God for giving us the gift of His son and ask Him for forgiveness. You may want to consider letting the kids in your group pray aloud as well. When finished praying, allow kids one at a time to place their hand in the water and wash the "sin" away. Have a towel nearby for kids to dry their hands on. If time remains, ask the following questions:

Question: What does it feel like knowing that Jesus has washed away all of your sins? If Jesus can just wash away all of our sins, do you think we should just keep on sinning?

Question: Why do you think it's so important to be baptized?





BIBLE VERSE BONKERS (Bible Memorization Activity)

Set up: Print the “Bible Verse Bonkers” cards on 8½ x 11 cardstock and cut apart. Each set should have 11 cards.

**“By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death.
And like Christ we also can have a new life.” Romans 6:4**

Directions: Ask the kids in your group to make up a Bonkers action—something crazy that the whole group will have to do. (For example: walk around like a chicken while barking like a dog.) When ready, place the 11 “Bible Verse Bonkers” cards face down in the middle of your group. Eight of the cards will have a portion of today’s Bible verse on it and three of the cards will be “Bonkers” cards. One at a time, have the kids in your group take turns flipping over cards. If they flip over a Bible verse card, have them try to place it in the right spot so that the verse reads in order. If they flip over all 3 “Bonkers” cards before completing the verse, the entire group must perform the pre-determined Bonkers action. After performing the action, allow the kids to finish placing the remaining Bible verse cards in order and read the verse aloud a few times. Next, remove the cards and ask the kids to recite the verse from memory. Play as many rounds as it takes for the kids to confidently memorize the verse.

Question: What do you think that verse is saying?

ACROSTIC PRAYERS (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Place a piece of butcher block paper in the middle of the circle. In big letters, use a marker to write the words “Thank You God” in the middle of the paper. Tell the kids to write down things that they are thankful for, but those things have to begin with one of the letters in the words “Thank You God.” When finished, open the group in prayer. Encourage the kids to pray aloud and thank God for the things they wrote down.

