

Prayers Lesson: Baptism



This month we are going to learn about prayer. And today the church is honoring “Baptism of the Lord Sunday,” when we remember Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist. So, this week we’ll talk about baptisms. Since prayer is simply communication with God, baptism is one form of prayer.



Craft:

Because baptism happens with water, make a vase from a water bottle (directions on next page). Each time you use it, it can remind you of the water of baptism. Discuss the introduction while you craft.

Introduction:

In some churches, including the Methodist church, babies are baptized and the parents and congregation vow to raise the child to know God. A small amount of water is applied to the baby’s head as they are prayed over. Adults will be baptized if they have never been baptized before.

Other churches wait for a child or adult to request to be baptized. In this case they are making the vows for themselves. Again, the congregation also vows to help the person. For this baptism one can have water applied to the head (aspersion) or be dipped in a tub of water (immersion).

If anyone in your family has been baptized, share stories of the event. If you would like to know more about baptism in the Methodist church visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/renewing-waters-how-united-methodists-understand-baptism>. To know more about baptism at Asbury United Methodist Church please call the church office to arrange a time to speak with Pastor Lindsay Kirkpatrick (281-484-4814).

Scripture:

The church has a Book of Worship that explains all of our practices. It beautifully describes baptism as “adoption by grace”. It goes on to say that each method of baptism has its own symbolism. Let’s look at the baptism of Jesus and the symbolism of today’s baptisms.

1. Mark 1:4-11: Much of our baptism ceremony is based on Jesus’ baptism.
2. Immersion: burial and resurrection - Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12
3. Sprinkling: pouring out of the Holy Spirit - Luke 3:21-22, Acts 2:38

No matter what age you are baptized at or how you are baptized, we choose to be baptized because Jesus was baptized. It means you are a new creation who wants everyone to know they follow Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Game: Shell Out

Give each child 2 cups and a shell (or a bottle cap). Fill one cup half-way with water. When you say go, kids see how fast they can move the water from one cup to the other using only the shell.

Closing:

When babies are baptized at Asbury we give them a blanket. It has a shell with water droplets. A long time ago the shell was used to pour water on a person being baptized so it is still a symbol of baptism today (and is sometimes still used). Do you know why there are 3 drops of water? (the Trinity)

The baptism starts by renouncing sin. That's a fancy way to say you are asking forgiveness. You then profess your belief that Jesus is your Savior. Next, the congregation vows to help you in your discipleship journey. Then everyone reads the Apostle's Creed (see next page), which states everything we believe as Christians. Close your time together with a version of the prayer that closes a baptism.

Pray, "Dear Lord, we pray that the Holy Spirit works within us, that being born through water and the Spirit, we may be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen."

Plastic Bottle Flower Vase from SoCal Field Trips



Supplies:

- One empty plastic bottle
- Two sheets tissue paper (wrapping paper would work, too)
- One piece of white paper
- Piece of ribbon
- Scissors
- Mod Podge (or white glue)
- Paint brush

Directions:

First, you want to take any labels off on the bottle and give it a quick rinse to remove any leftover residue.

Second, cut up or tear approximately 40 small squares of a variety of colored tissue papers.

Next, brush a light coat of Mod Podge all over the bottle. The key to using Mod Podge is to go slow and only use a small amount. One brush stroke can go a long way!

Next add the tissue paper squares all over the bottle. You can either design a pattern yourself, randomly put them on the bottle or skip certain sections. The joy of making crafts from recycled materials is that you can do whatever inspires you!

On the white paper draw or print your preferred baptism symbol. You may choose to use a verse to or by itself. Glue this to the bottle, as well.

Finally, tie or glue the ribbon around the neck of the bottle.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*