

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

Baptism: Part 1

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Know what scripture says regarding Baptism
- Understand what Baptism does
- Understand who is at work in Baptism

BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE

1. Fill out the chart below by putting your answer in the third column.

Passage	Question(s):	Your Answer:
Matthew 28:19	(1) How are disciples made? (2) In whose name should we baptize?	
Mark 16:16	(1) What is the result of Baptism? (2) What is the result of unbelief?	
John 3:3-5	(1) What does it mean to be “born again”? (2) What does baptism allow us to enter?	
Acts 2:37-41	(1) What are two results of Baptism? (2) Who should be Baptized?	
Acts 8:12	(1) What was Philip doing when people believed? (2) Who is baptized?	
Acts 8:14-17	(1) What did Samaria receive? (2) What else is connected or associated with Baptism in this verse?	

Acts 8:36-38	(1) What was Philip doing? (2) Did the eunuch Baptize himself?	
Acts 9:17-18	(1) Why did Jesus send Ananias to Saul? (2) What physical actions did Ananias do to Saul to accomplish what Jesus wanted?	
Acts 10:44-48	(1) What was Peter doing when the Holy Spirit fell on them? (2) What was Peter's answer?	
Acts 16:14-15	(1) What did the Lord do to Lydia when she heard Paul? (2) Who else was Baptized with Lydia?	
Acts 16:27-33	(1) What did Paul and Silas speak to the Jailer's household? (2) Who all was Baptized with the keeper of the prison?	
Acts 18:8	(1) What else is listed in this passage along with "baptized"?	
Acts 22:16	(1) What is the result of Baptism?	
Romans 6:3-6	(1) What events from Christ's time on earth are we literally connected to through Baptism?	
I Corinthians 6:9-11	(1) What word used means "Baptized"? (2) What other things are listed with baptism?	

Galatians 3:27	(1) What is the result of being Baptized into Christ?	
Ephesians 4:4-5	(1) How many different baptisms are there?	
Ephesians 5:25-27	(1) How does Jesus sanctify and cleanse the church? (2) How does Jesus present the church to Himself?	
Colossians 2:11-14	(1) What is the “circumcision made without hands” or “circumcision of Christ”? (2) What are the results of Baptism in these verses?	
Titus 3:5-6	(1) What does God save us through? (2) What does “washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” mean?	
Hebrews 10:22-23	(1) What does it mean by “having our hearts sprinkled” and “bodies washed with pure water”?	
1 Peter 3:21	(1) What does Baptism do? (2) What event from Jesus’s time on earth does this connect us to?	

It is from these verses above that we learn everything we need to know about Baptism. Now, let's take a look at a summary of what we as Lutherans believe about Baptism:

BAPTISM SAVES

To some Christians, the statement “Baptism saves” is upsetting. However, if you believe that Scripture is true, then it would be hard to say that Baptism *doesn't* save you. For example, in I Peter 3:21 it says “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” So, the right question then isn't “does Baptism save?” ... but “how does Baptism save?”

In thinking about Baptism, we must always remember that Baptism is not a second way of salvation. Baptism is not your savior, but it's the work of Jesus Christ on the cross that will save you. Therefore Baptism saves because it connects you in faith to Jesus. Baptism is called a means of grace. In other words, it's the vehicle God has chosen to deliver to you His forgiveness for your sins. Remember the illustration we used last week about electricity? The electricity generated at a power plant does you no good unless the power lines bring it to you. In the same way, Jesus won your salvation on the cross, and the sacraments (Lord's Supper and Baptism) simply connect you to His sacrifice there. Baptism can be seen as the power line that brings God's gift of forgiveness to you. Baptism saves you by connecting you to the only source of salvation: Jesus Christ!

BAPTISM IS NOT JUST A “SYMBOL” OR “PICTURE”

After you have gone through nearly every passage that references baptism in the Bible, have you noticed that not one verse explains or describes baptism as a *symbol* or a *picture*? Don't believe me? Go back and look through the verses again. The conclusion can be made from the Word of God that baptism is not a just a symbol of Jesus death and resurrection. Baptism actually does something; it saves!

BAPTISM IS THE WORK OF GOD

Did any of these passages describe baptism as something we do for God or as a sign of our obedience to God? If you said no, you are correct! Baptism is not about *us doing something* for God, it's about *God doing something* to and for us. In Baptism, God is reaching down to you, not you reaching up to God. We are only the recipients in Baptism.

Some Christians misunderstand who is doing the work in baptism, and will falsely accuse those who profess that “baptism saves” as teaching salvation by works. That's why it's so important for you to understand who is doing the work in baptism. Baptism is not “salvation by works”, because Baptism isn't a work, we do... it's a work God is doing!

In Martin Luther's Large Catechism, he talks at length about Baptism. In one section, he talks specifically about who is doing the work in Baptism. He said:

“*For to be baptized in the name of God is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own work.*”

HOW DOES BAPTISM SAVE?

In Baptism, it is through the (1) water and the (2) Word of God that we are buried with Christ and united together with Him, so that we might be raised in a newness of life. Baptism saves by washing us, regenerating us, and renewing us with the Holy Spirit. And to top it all off, we can know that Baptism saves because God's Word promises that it saves. When God makes a promise, we can be 100% sure He won't break his promise. God doesn't lie!

CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

One common question that comes up when we discuss Baptism is “Can you lose your salvation?” Some denominations teach that once a person is saved, they can never lose their salvation. A few phrases often associated with that teaching are “Once saved, always saved”, “Perseverance of the Saints”, or “Eternal

Security". But as Lutherans, we believe that someone who is actually saved is able to fall or drift away from the faith. Take a look at a few passages from the book of Hebrews, and see what it says.

2. According to Hebrews 2:1, what can you do to keep from "drifting away" (aka: losing your salvation)?

3. According to Hebrews 6:4-6, what warning is given to Christians about falling away from the faith?

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTIONS: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. Read Part IV of your Catechism (p.19), "The Sacrament of Baptism" together. Write down:

- a. One thing that you learned or that surprised you about baptism

- b. One promise God has given us about baptism that is comforting to you.

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the "Student & Parent Questions" section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____