

# Lesson 24 – Baptism

Grades 6-8

## Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 24 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have a Bible for this session.

## Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Leader: Father, You have called us into your family through the sacrament of baptism. You have given us, through this sacrament, a share in your own divine Life. Strengthen us to live out our baptismal promises. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Opening:

This session will focus on baptism. Begin by reading the following two Scripture passages – John 3:1-5; Romans 6:3-4 – and asking the class what these are teaching us about the sacrament of baptism.

## Watch the Lesson 24 Video on Catholic Brain

**Comprehension Questions:** *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

- 1) What is washed away in baptism?

*Original sin, and any actual sin*

2) Why can we only be baptized once?

*It leaves a permanent mark on the soul*

3) Who can baptize?

*Normally it is a priest or deacon, but in an emergency, anyone can (note: review question 319 in the Baltimore Catechism so they will know how to baptize)*

4) What is baptism of blood?

*A person who dies for Christ without having been baptized receives the grace of baptism through baptism of blood*

5) What is baptism of desire?

*A person who, through no fault of their own, has not been baptized, but has tried to do what God desires, the best he understands it, receives the grace of baptism through baptism of desire*

**Discussion Questions:** *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) How is being baptized being born again?

*We receive supernatural life through baptism and we are born into the family of God, the Church*

2) Why is it important that everyone be baptized?

*Baptism is necessary for salvation. Although God can bestow the grace of baptism without a water baptism in some cases, it is still important to receive the sacrament, which makes us members of the Church and is the doorway to deeper growth in faith*

3) Ask students if they remember attending any baptisms. Allow them to share their experiences.

## **Go Deeper:**

The Fathers of the Church are the Catholics that lived in the centuries just after the Apostles. Read and discuss the following quotes from some of them about baptism. What do we learn from them?

### **St. Ambrose – On the Holy Spirit, Book III – A.D. 381**

*And it is not doubtful that sin is forgiven by means of baptism, but in baptism the operation is that of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

### **St. Hippolytus – The Apostolic Tradition – A.D. 215**

*Baptize first the children, and if they can speak for themselves let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them*

### **St. John Chrysostom – Baptismal Catecheses in Augustine – A.D. 388**

*You see how many are the benefits of baptism, and some think its heavenly grace consists only in the remission of sins, but we have enumerated ten honors [it bestows]! For this reason we baptize even infants, though they are not defiled by [personal] sins, so that there may be given to them holiness, righteousness, adoption, inheritance, brotherhood with Christ, and that they may be his [Christ's] members*

### **St. Cyprian of Carthage – Epistle 58 – A.D. 253**

*But again, if even to the greatest sinners, and to those who had sinned much against God, when they subsequently believed, remission of sins is granted--and nobody is hindered from baptism and from grace-*

## **Activity:**

Ask students if they know their baptism day. This is a day that should be celebrated. Have them find out from their families, when they were baptized. If possible, they should also find out where, and who baptized them. Next session, let them share what they learned, along with any pictures.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Leader: Thank You, Father, for the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. And thank You for allowing us to share in His merits through our baptism. We pray for all those who are not baptized, that they will one day soon receive this wonderful gift. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.