



Outline - Lesson 1



OPENING PRAYER

Welcome to your educational journey, a journey that will teach you the basics of your Christian faith, a journey that will encourage you to follow in the footsteps of your Lord.

(Hand out Workbook, Catechism, and Class Handouts.)

First, let's look at the materials I just handed out. The Catechism, which will also be called our Textbook, contains the basics of the Christian faith. In the front part of your Catechism, you will find the basic six chief parts which will be your memory work during the year.

The remainder of the Catechism provides explanation, in the form of questions and answers, along with proof passages. During our time together, we will work through the information in our Catechism by using our Class Handouts. Your Workbook, which is a study of John and I John, will be done on your own during the week. When you come to class each week, I will check your Workbook information and I will also listen to your memory work.

Your memory work schedule is found on the inside of the back cover of your Workbook. On the blank in front of each portion of your memory work, you can put the date it is due so you know what memory work you need to have completed each week.

BASIC GUIDELINES

Turn to pages 1-2 in your Handouts so we can look at some guidelines for our time together.

Basic Guidelines

1. I have a responsibility not only to teach, but to see that you learn the basic information about the Christian faith. I will be using a point system to determine how well I am doing and how well you are doing. I'll explain the point system more in a moment.
2. There is a time and a place for fun. Since we have a certain amount of work that needs to be accomplished each week, we will need to stick to the task, yet we can still have some fun along the way.

3. I will treat you with respect, care about you and offer to help you in any way I am able. I also expect the same from you toward each other and toward me.
4. A point system will be used to determine whether you complete the work adequately for the year. The purpose of the point system is to keep you involved in the life of the church beyond merely attending Catechism Class. The point system does not earn you the right to be confirmed. It simply provides a means of tracking your involvement in the life of your church. You will receive points in this way:

Church	50 pts.
Sunday School.....	30 pts.
Special Services	70 pts.
Memory Work	70 pts.
A or B on Quiz.....	20 pts.
Workbook	+ =25 pts.; / =20 pts.; - =0 pts.
Class Participation (Depending on participation).....	10-30 pts.
Message Notes	30 pts.
Youth Activity	70 pts.
Tests	A=400 pts.; B=300 pts.; C=200 pts.; D=100 pts.
Retake of Test = One letter grade lower than test score	
Extra Credit Work.....	25 pts.
Discipline Problem	-100 pts.

***You need 6,500 points to complete the class
9,500+ basic points are available***

5. Your weekly points and points to date will be tallied each week to indicate your progress.
6. Discipline will be handled very quickly. Two warnings will be given and then you will lose 100 points toward completing the class **and** you will also stay after to do extra work.
7. There will be weekly quizzes which will be worth 20 points and four tests which will be worth 400 points each if you receive an A on them.
8. You are expected to complete your Workbook lesson each week and you will receive points based on how well it is completed.
9. Taking notes on the Sunday morning messages is one way to earn extra points. Other extra credit work will be available throughout the year.
10. I expect you to be quiet unless I call on you. If you have something to say, raise your hand and I will call on you. In group discussions, talking is fine **as long as** it pertains to the topic and is within reason.
11. No food or drink during class time unless I give the class permission.
12. Your memory work assignments are on the inside of the back cover of your Workbook.

13. Classes will generally follow this format:

Opening Prayer
Memory Work/Check Workbook
Memory Work Terms & Application for next week
Quiz on previous week's material
Review Questions
Lesson Overview
Lesson
Preview of next week's lesson/special assignments
Closing Prayer
Additional Memory Work

14. Classes will normally last an hour and 45 minutes.

15. Any time you have a concern, I will be happy to listen. If it is not related to the topic, we will discuss it at another time.

16. As I said, I am here to see that you learn. I will do my job as best I can and I expect you to do the same.

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION

Turn to page 3 in your Handouts so we can look at your memory work for next week.

Near the beginning of each class, we will take time to look at your memory work for the next week. As we do, we will define terms that may be unfamiliar to you, give you the opportunity to put the memory work into your own words, and then, focus for a few moments on applying the memory work to your lives.

(If you choose, you can also have the students circle the terms in their Catechism and have them write a one or two word definition above or below the word in their Catechism.)

Let's look at your memory work for next week.

Terms & Application

❖ *“Imprint On The Mind”* ❖
(Memory Work)

Baptism I & II

✎ *“Understanding Before Imprinting”* ✎
(Defining Terms)

Included - _____

Combined - _____

Disciples - _____

Forgiveness - _____

Salvation - _____

Condemned - _____

📁 *“In Simple Terms”* 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ *“Using What You Know”* ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

Why is it important to you that God’s Word is connected to the water in Baptism:

Why did you need to be rescued from “death and the devil”: _____

Before we move on, I want to explain what is expected of you when you do your memory work. You will be expected to know your memory work without using your book. If you get stuck, I will help you. If it appears that you don’t know it, I will ask you to work on it and try again. Credit for memory work will only be given if you complete all the memory work for the day.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: PRE-INSTRUCTION ESSAY

(The Pre-Instruction Essay is an optional activity. If you choose to use it, it is available in a “student-ready” format as part of the Supplementary Pages located on my website: www.mapleleafprinting.com. If you need a paper version, contact me and I will provide a printed master version to copy for your use.)

(For the sake of time, you may choose to send this home to be completed during the week so you have more time for the next portion of the lesson.)

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

Before we begin our lesson today, I want to find out what you already know.

(Hand out the Pre-Instruction Essay.)

You will have 20 minutes to respond to the questions. This is not a test. Its purpose is to see what you already know.

Pre-Instruction Essay Series I

This is not a test. You cannot pass or fail. Its purpose is to see what you already know. At the end of the year, you will see this test or one very similar when we evaluate what you learned during the year.

The Ten Commandments

1. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments? Why did God give you the Ten Commandments?
2. How can the Ten Commandments help you live a life that is pleasing to God? How are the Ten Commandments beneficial to your Christian life?
3. Which Commandment do you view as most important? Why?

The Apostles' Creed

4. What does the First Article of the Creed tell you about your God?
5. What does the Second Article tell you about your God?
6. What does the Third Article tell you about your God?

7. How does what you know about God from the Creed help you live a life that is pleasing to Him? In what ways does what you know about God from the Creed motivate you to serve Him?

The Lord's Prayer

8. What do you see as the benefits of prayer? How can regular time in prayer affect your life?
9. If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, write the words of the prayer you would pray today.
10. What can you gain from prayer that you might not have otherwise?

Baptism

11. What occurs at Baptism that makes it so important in your life?
12. Based on what you know about your Baptism, define faith. Where does it come from? How do you get it? Why is it important?
13. What does your Baptism offer you every day? What are the benefits of Baptism for your life?

The Office of the Keys / Confession

14. What is the purpose of confessing your sins to God?
15. What do you receive when you confess your sins? What do you gain by admitting your mistakes to God?

The Lord's Supper

16. Why do you want to attend the Lord's Supper? What do you gain by attending the Lord's Supper?
17. What do you intend to do each time you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper? What type of preparations will you make before you go to the Lord's Supper?
18. How will receiving the Lord's Supper regularly affect your life?

(Gather their essays and look over them during the week.)

LESSON

As we begin our journey, we start by asking what may seem like an obvious question. That question is, "Are you a Christian?" Most, if not all of you would probably be quick to answer, "Well, of course, I'm a Christian!" Yet saying the words and actually being a Christian aren't necessarily the same thing.

Turn to page 4 in your Handouts.

(Note: Several of the statements below do not have a black and white response. Their purpose is to make them think and to help them understand that it's easy to say words, but putting them into action is a whole different matter.)

I am a Christian

Which statements below agree with who you claim to be at this moment? Circle the number of each statement that agrees with what it means to be a Christian.

1. I love my Lord and all He does for me, even when I don't agree with all His actions.
2. I live my life as best I can knowing that, as I do, I earn favor and can get into good graces with God.
3. I do nice things for others because I know that's what God expects of me.
4. I go to church regularly knowing God is happy with me when I worship Him.
5. I do good deeds confident my good deeds will earn God's forgiveness.
6. I pray to God and believe God answers my prayers.
7. I treat other people in the way Christ would treat them, even when it's not how I would prefer to treat them.
8. I show respect to my parents and my teachers as a way of demonstrating my love for God.
9. I reserve Sunday for God knowing the rest of the week is mine to live as I want to live it.
10. I learn as much as I can about my God so I can have a closer relationship with Him.
11. As long as I believe something, I know God will be pleased with me and be nice to me.
12. Doing a good deed is the best way to know I am keeping God happy.
13. I believe I can earn my faith and my way to heaven by how I live my life.
14. I know in my heart that God loves me and always wants what is best for me. Yet sometimes, I don't understand His plan.

As you can see, claiming to be a Christian can mean different things to different people. Just because you claim the generic name "Christian" doesn't mean very much in our day. All you have to do is look around and you will see that there

are many churches who claim to be Christian. Yet some who claim the name unfortunately don't deserve to use the name "Christian."

In simple terms, a Christian is one who follows Christ, just as the name implies. The first followers of Jesus were given the name "Christian," and since that time, the term has been used for those who truly follow and also those who claim to follow Christ.

As you hear the meaning of the term "Christian," it sounds logical and it sounds very simple. If you follow Christ, you are a Christian. Yet it's not nearly that simple today. There are many who claim to follow Christ, yet not everyone follows Christ in the same way. The Catholic church claims to be a Christian church, yet it follows Christ in a different way than the Methodist church, which also claims to be a Christian church.

So how do we determine "Christian" from "Christian"? Many years ago, that question was seldom asked because there was only one church. Yet as time went by, that one church, known as the catholic church, meaning "universal" church, began to drift from what the Bible said. It began teaching that one could earn forgiveness by purchasing an indulgence, a piece of paper declaring that a particular sin had been forgiven.

As this and other issues occurred that were not in keeping with God's Word, a man named Martin Luther began to speak against the church.

Turn to page 5 in your Handouts and let's see what we can learn about the man named Martin Luther.

The Man...The Moment

On the line in front of each statement, place a star if you believe the statement is true and a horizontal line if you think the statement is false.

- _____ 1. Martin Luther lived around the same time as Columbus.
- _____ 2. Martin Luther entered a monastery in order to study God's Word more diligently and understand how he could become right with God.
- _____ 3. Martin Luther planned to create an uproar in his church from the very beginning of his time at the monastery.
- _____ 4. Martin Luther was a genius by most standards. He was able to read Greek and Hebrew and even translated the entire Bible into German so the people could read the Word of God for themselves.
- _____ 5. Martin Luther had spent months carefully studying God's Word before he came upon the answer to his question, "How can I get right with God?"

- _____ 6. Martin Luther began speaking out because he was convinced his church had drifted away from what God's Word said.
- _____ 7. Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg as an official statement of the errors occurring in the church of his day.
- _____ 8. Martin Luther had secretly hoped people would listen to him so he could start a new church.
- _____ 9. Martin Luther was used by God to bring those who would listen back to the Word, to preserve His Word for us today.
- _____ 10. Martin Luther's historic moment occurred on October 31, 1517.
- _____ 11. Martin Luther's goal was to preserve the church and the Word of God.
- _____ 12. Martin Luther later wrote the Large and Small Catechisms so the people could understand the basics of God's Word.
- _____ 13. The name we use today, the name "Lutheran," was originally a derogatory term used by those who despised and ridiculed Martin Luther.

Martin Luther was a remarkable individual who was used by God to make major changes in the church. Because of him, we now claim the name Lutheran. Yet what makes us Lutheran today? What makes us Lutheran Christians?

Look at the next page in your Handouts.

(Note: Some the statements below are true of all Christians. Other statements are distinctly Lutheran. As you see appropriate, point out the difference as you discuss each statement.)

I am Lutheran

It is one thing to be a Christian. It is another thing to be a Lutheran Christian. Based on what you currently know, which statements below are true for you as a Lutheran Christian? Circle the number of each true statement.

- 1. I believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as the one true God.
- 2. I believe that I am saved, that I am able to be in heaven one day entirely by the grace of God and nothing else.
- 3. I hold that the Word of God is absolutely true from beginning to end and that everything in the Bible is God's Word.

4. I believe what I do with my life, my good deeds, help me stay in good graces with God.
5. I maintain that God loves me because I am a good person.
6. I believe my good deeds are only a response to my faith not a way to earn my faith.
7. I maintain that I am forgiven by God, that every sin I commit is forgivable.
8. I believe Christ's body and blood are really present at the Lord's Supper.
9. I believe the Holy Spirit worked faith in my heart at Baptism because He liked what He saw when He looked at me.
10. I maintain that forgiveness from God is a gift, freely given, never earned by how I live my life.
11. I know with absolute certainty because of my faith, that if I die tonight, I will be with God in heaven.
12. I believe that the moment I die my soul goes to heaven or hell.
13. I believe that, because I am saved, I can live my life however I want and God will still take me to heaven.
14. I believe the Bible interprets itself, that what the Bible says can be understood by other passages in the Bible instead of by someone else's ideas.
15. I believe the Bible accurately speaks today and does not need to be revised by men to be useful.

Many of the statements we just discussed will become clearer to you over the course of the year. At this point in time, I wanted you to realize that there is a difference between calling yourself a "Christian" and calling yourself a "Lutheran," a difference that brings us together week after week to study and learn who we are as Lutheran Christians.

To learn who we are as Lutheran Christians, we need to have an understanding of some basics.

Turn to page 48 in your Textbook (Catechism).

According to Q2, where do we learn the truth about Jesus our Savior?

The Old and New Testaments

What do we learn about Jesus from the Old Testament?

What do we learn from the New Testament?

To understand Jesus as our Savior, we need both the Old and the New Testament. Without the promises of the Old Testament, we would miss much of the significance found in the New Testament.

Look at Q5. What is essential for understanding the Word of God?

The guidance of the Holy Spirit

Our ability to think and reason are important to understanding the Bible. Yet what is needed most is the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But how do we get the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Any ideas?

The guidance of the Holy Spirit does not fall from heaven every time you open the Bible. It doesn't come by speaking some magical words. The guidance of the Holy Spirit comes by asking for His guidance with a heart filled with faith. To understand God's Word, we need to go to God in prayer and ask Him to show us what we need to understand, what we need to learn, what we can gain from our time in His Word.

After we have asked for His guidance, we need to look at His Word believing what we read is more than just words, that it is God speaking to us at that moment in a way that is different from any other book.

Because the Holy Spirit provides the insight and helps us understand the Bible, you can read the same verse at two different times and God will show you something different both times, if He chooses to do so. It's amazing what information is available in God's Word as we ask Him to show us.

As you look at Q6-Q8, what other important distinction do we need to make as we read God's Word?

Law and Gospel

According to Q7, what does God teach us in the Law?

- Commands us to do good works
- Tells us what to do and what not to do
- Shows us our sin (S.O.S.)
- Points out our failures and our need for God

According to Q8, what does God teach us in the Gospel?

- Offers us forgiveness, faith, and life
- Gives us the power to please God
- Enables us to do good works as a response to faith
- Shows us our Savior (S.O.S.)
- Provides our avenue of relief from our failures

According to Q9, what could we call the Catechism?

A summary of the basics of the the Christian faith which is divided into six chief parts

What are the six chief parts of the Catechism?

According to Q12, why are all the chief parts taken from God's Word?

It is the only final authority for Christian faith and Christian living

With these basics in mind, we need to look at one more page in our Handouts, page 7, as we wind down our discussion of Lutheran Christians today.

More Than Motions

For some, it may be easy to think going through the right motions is enough to make one a Lutheran Christian. Yet, Lutheran Christians do more than go through the motions. They live the faith they claim in their hearts. Place a cross on the line in front of each statement that accurately reflects what you can do as a Lutheran Christian.

- _____ 1. Bring my good times and tough times to God in prayer believing He will listen and answer
- _____ 2. Trust God to provide what I need as I need it, even when I may feel like He has forgotten my needs
- _____ 3. Offer random acts of kindness simply because I want others to know of the great things God does in my life
- _____ 4. Ask God for guidance and then go about my day acting like God is right beside me everywhere I go
- _____ 5. Go to church because it's what I know He wants me to do
- _____ 6. Live each day knowing I am forgiven, that God has long forgotten my mistakes
- _____ 7. Go through my day asking God for help only when I need Him since I don't want to interrupt Him too often
- _____ 8. Read His Word during the week, especially in my tough times, expecting the Holy Spirit to show me what I need to see at that moment
- _____ 9. Enjoy life; let others see my joy, and give God the credit for that joy

- _____ 10. Allow my faith to have a direct affect on what I do. Before I do something, I ask myself, "What would Jesus want me to do?"
- _____ 11. Live each day as a response to my faith, as my way to honor my God for all the great things He does for me
- _____ 12. Make the most of every moment instead of floating through the day waiting for some perfect moment
- _____ 13. Live each day looking for opportunities to do God's Will, opportunities to make a difference for Christ before the day ends
- _____ 14. Come to church expecting God to do great things, listening for Him to speak to me

Being a Christian is a great thing. Being a Lutheran Christian who knows the truth about being saved by grace through faith is a wonderful thing. It sets before you every day an adventure, an adventure God is waiting for you to live, not half asleep, but with your eyes wide open to every opportunity He sets before you.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

Define a Christian.

Name two things Martin Luther accomplished.

What are two things that make Lutheran Christians different from Christians?

What is the difference between Law and Gospel?

What is one thing you can do to make your faith more than merely going through the motions?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will look at the world before sin arrived. We will consider what changes occurred when Adam and Eve sinned, and discuss free will and how it works. After that, we will learn what our sins do to God's heart and consider God's plan to rescue us.

For extra credit: Design a "creation" that explains God's plan to rescue you and enable you to obtain eternal life. Bring it to class next week for 100-200 extra credit points.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 2



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 8

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

Baptism III

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Life-giving - _____

Grace - _____

Renewal - _____

Generously - _____

Justified - _____

Heirs - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ **“Using What You Know”** ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

Why is it important for you to know that God’s Word is connected to the water of Baptism:

Why is it good to know that you are an heir of eternal life because of Baptism:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Give me your definition of a Christian.

Name two things Martin Luther accomplished.

What are two things that make Lutheran Christians different from Christians?

What is the difference between Law and Gospel?

What can you do to make sure you are living out your faith?

LESSON OVERVIEW

Last week, we discussed what it meant to be a Lutheran Christian. We also talked about Martin Luther and what he accomplished. Near the end, we discussed the meaning of Law and Gospel and ways we can put our faith into action. Today, we need to return to the beginning of creation as we learn how things were in the beginning, what went wrong, how it affects us today, and what God has done to bring us from death to life.

LESSON

When God created the world, He created a world that looked drastically different than the world we live in today, a world that was perfect in every way. As we look at our world, we can’t begin to create an accurate picture of how things once were. The best we can do is to put the pieces together as best we are able as we seek to understand who our God is and who we are as His people.

To begin putting the pieces together, we need to return to the beginning of creation. In the beginning, the world looked very different than what we see today. People and animals also functioned differently. In the beginning, life was peaceful; life was pleasant; life was just the way God created it to be.

Turn to page 9 in your Handouts so we can learn some details about God's creation and how things were in the beginning.

As It Was...

Turn to Genesis 1:1-31. Based on the information you find in those verses, answer the statements below by putting a "T" or "F" on the line in front of each statement.

- _____ 1. In the beginning of creation, it was impossible for the world to be anything but perfect.
- _____ 2. As God performs His creation work, He always describes His creation as good. He never gives any hint of any imperfections in His creation.
- _____ 3. As God created the plants, some of the plants and trees were less than perfect.
- _____ 4. Every plant, every tree that was necessary for the rest of creation was designed as perfect by God.
- _____ 5. As God created plants, there were no weeds of any kind, not a single one.
- _____ 6. As part of God's creation, every season occurred at precisely the right time and each season was always beautiful and enjoyable.
- _____ 7. In the beginning, there was already a danger of the sun getting too hot and burning up the earth.
- _____ 8. As God created the fish, He designed them to repopulate the water, yet never over-populate the water.
- _____ 9. In the beginning, there were no issues that ever caused fish to die.
- _____ 10. All the birds God created were friendly birds, birds that would never harm another bird.
- _____ 11. Every animal God created was good. Not a single animal in the beginning was harmful.
- _____ 12. The garden was always in perfect harmony and man and woman enjoyed taking care of God creation.
- _____ 13. Hate, anger, disappointment, unhappiness - none of those things existed in the beginning.

- _____ 14. If nothing had interrupted creation, everything would still be just as perfect today as it was in the beginning.
- _____ 15. As God completed His creation, God described His work as “very good.”

Try to imagine such a place; try to picture a world where everything is perfect, where everyone and every thing gets along, where there is peace and happiness every day, a place where there is no pain, no illness, a place where every day was a great day.

We can't begin to imagine what perfect would be like. The best we can do is to say the world was once perfect, but it isn't that way today. Obviously, something went wrong after God completed His creative work. Something went dreadfully wrong.

Let's investigate what happened by looking up Genesis 3:1-19.

(Have one or two students read the verses.)

What occurs in these verses is what we commonly call the Fall into sin. Because of this one event, sin, something Adam and Eve and the rest of the world had never experienced, began to unfold in ways beyond anything they could imagine.

Let's suppose for a moment that you had been there at that moment and the days following, that you were a reporter “live on the scene” in the Garden of Eden.

Turn to page 10 in your Handouts

Live on the Scene

If you had been live on the scene as the events of the Fall occurred, which of the following could you have reported as accurate information? Place a check mark on the line in front of each statement you could have included in your “live on the scene” report.

- _____ 1. As Adam and Eve approached the tree God had told them not to eat from, a serpent creature began to speak to them regarding what God had said and not said.
- _____ 2. The devil, who was in the form of a serpent, created doubt in the minds of Adam and Eve by his cunning and crafty questions.
- _____ 3. The devil's response to Adam and Eve led them to believe God was holding out on them, that there was more available than they already had.
- _____ 4. As Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they very quickly realized they had made a horrible mistake.

- _____ 5. One of the first things Adam and Eve did after they had sinned was to argue with God, to tell God it wasn't fair they were being punished.
- _____ 6. Adam and Eve suddenly became afraid of the same God whose presence they had enjoyed moments earlier.
- _____ 7. Whatever fashion the serpent appeared in when it spoke to Adam and Eve changed forever as God cursed it to crawl on the ground.
- _____ 8. The punishment God placed on Eve was that she would now have pain in childbirth, pain that was unknown to her prior to this time.
- _____ 9. Adam's punishment was that weeds would grow up all over and that all he did would now take work, something very different from what Adam had done in the past.
- _____ 10. Adam and Eve also were informed that they would die, that they would now return to the ground and no longer live forever.
- _____ 11. The changes in the world due to the Fall occurred almost instantly and anyone would have known something terrible had occurred.
- _____ 12. Adam and Eve suddenly found themselves in a world they could have never imagined, a world filled with pain, hate, and heartaches.

If you had been "live on the scene" at the time of the Fall, you would have been stunned by the changes, overwhelmed by what occurred and how quickly the effects of sin changed the world. For Adam and Eve, it was an event never to be forgotten. Still today, it's difficult for us to imagine the devastation that occurred moments after Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

Now that we have a better understanding of what occurred at the Fall, we need to ask a logical question, "If the world was perfect, how was it possible for the devil to create doubt? How was it possible for Adam and Eve to disobey God?"

The answer is found in the term, "free will." Adam and Eve were given a free will, the freedom to obey or disobey God. God had placed that freedom within His people because He wanted us to serve Him and follow Him by choice, not merely because we were pre-programmed to follow Him.

Turn to page 11 in your Handouts so we can learn how free will affected Adam and Eve's life and how it affects us today.

Freedom Dangers

Adam and Eve, along with each one of us, possess a free will. For each statement below, determine whether it is true or false. Then, circle the number of each true statement.

1. If God had not given Adam and Eve a free will, they would never have disobeyed God.
2. Prior to the Fall, the angels had a free will. That's how some of the good angels, including the devil, became bad angels.
3. Free will made it possible for them to create imperfection in God's world.
4. Adam and Eve's improper use of their free will took away all their freedom and replaced it with heartache and pain.
5. Free will enabled Adam and Eve to make a choice. Without free will, they would have always obeyed God and never been deceived by the devil.
6. Because of their free will, what Adam and Eve thought they would gain actually turned out to be a terrible, life-long disaster.
7. Free will and the sin created by it are passed on to the next generation at birth.
8. I possess the same free will that Adam and Eve had at the beginning of creation.
9. Along with the free will I am born with comes original sin, the sin I am also born with.
10. Even though I know what free will did to Adam and Eve's life, I still allow my free will to lead me to make bad choices.
11. Because of my free will, I would have done the very same thing Adam and Eve did back in the garden.
12. Unless I make a constant effort to keep it in check, my free will will lead me down the wrong path far more often than the right path.
13. Although free will sounds like a wonderful thing, it's actually more of a detriment than a benefit in my life today.
14. Using my free will improperly breaks the heart of God as much today as it did the day Adam and Eve misused their free will.
15. Because I am a Christian, it's much easier for me to use my free will in the proper way than it is for the non-Christian.

Free will, the ability to choose, sounded like such a wonderful gift. Yet, as we have seen, having a free will is more harmful to us than helpful. As it devastated the lives of Adam and Eve, it continues to devastate lives even today.

It devastates our lives yet today because our free will leads us to sin and sin separates us from God.

Turn to page 12 in your Handouts. We need to get a better understanding of sin and how it affects life and our relationship with our God.

Breaking God's Heart

Every sin breaks the heart of God. Choose the statements below that are true about sin and its affects by drawing a sad face on the line in front of each true statement.

- _____ 1. Sin isn't really my fault; I can't help it, so God should give me a break.
- _____ 2. Every sin I commit offends God even if it only involves another person.
- _____ 3. Each time I sin, I interrupt my relationship with God and need Him to repair it for me.
- _____ 4. There are sins I commit every day that break God's heart that I don't even know I commit.
- _____ 5. No matter what my age, even when I was a baby, I sinned more times than I can count on my hands and toes.
- _____ 6. My sins actually leave me in a situation no better than Adam and Eve faced after they committed the first sin.
- _____ 7. God's attitude toward my sin depends on how big the sin is and what kind of a mood God is in at the moment.
- _____ 8. If I committed only one sin today and God had not sent Jesus to pay for my sins, that one sin would condemn me to hell if the world ended at midnight.
- _____ 9. Every sin I commit is like slapping God in the face and saying, "I did it my way!"
- _____ 10. If God had left me in my sin, my sins would create so much guilt and pain I would wish I could die just to find relief.
- _____ 11. My sins leave me hopelessly lost, forsaken by God, and desperately in need of His forgiveness.

- _____ 12. Because of sin, God chose to intervene, to create a plan to change my life for eternity.
- _____ 13. Since God is a kind and loving God, He overlooks some of my little sins.
- _____ 14. If God shed one tear for each sin I committed today, it would take more than one paper towel to wipe His teardrops off the table.

We would like to believe sin isn't that big of a deal, that God overlooks the little stuff, that we are pretty good on our own, that we only need God's intervention when it comes to our major blunders. Yet that is the furthest thing from the truth. Without God's intervention, one sin would sentence us to death, to life in hell, to that place where we would want to die, but couldn't die.

Fortunately, God created a plan to intervene. In His love and kindness, He had created a plan before the creation of the world because God knew of the Fall and our sin before He even created Adam and Eve.

Before we look at the pieces of God's plan, we want to look at your "creations" which you made for extra credit and see what we can learn about God's plan from your creations.

(Allow students to tell how their creation explains God's plan of salvation.)

Turn to page 13 in your Handouts and let's look at God's plan.

The Plan

Which statements below provide accurate descriptions of God's plan to rescue us? Circle the number of each true (accurate) statement.

1. God's plan to save me was created after the first sin of Adam and Eve.
2. When God created the world, He expected it to remain perfect forever.
3. Before the existence of the world and human beings, God already knew His people would disobey Him and become sinful.
4. The events of Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter were already known to God before He began creating the world.
5. God's original plan included Jesus becoming human, living among us, dying, and rising again.
6. The events of Jesus' birth, the shepherds, the angels, the Wise Men, each occurred as part of God's original plan.

7. Before I was even born, God already had created a plan that made it possible for me to be in heaven one day.
8. God's plan for me was created based on what God knew I would do in my life to keep Him happy with me.
9. The ministry of Jesus, although it was very brief, was part of God's plan to bring others to the knowledge of God and His salvation plan.
10. Jesus died on the cross for me and my sins. 2,000 years ago, He paid for my sins before I even committed them.
11. As Jesus rose on Easter morning, He fulfilled yet another part of God's plan proving His power over death.
12. Jesus remained on the earth 40 days after His resurrection so that there would be many witnesses to verify He was alive.
13. As Jesus ascended into heaven, God's plan was that we should take care of ourselves, that we no longer needed Jesus in person among us.
14. When Jesus returns on the Last Day, God's plan to save me will finally be completed.
15. Everything God has done or will do is always part of His plan. Nothing occurs that doesn't fit into His plan.

God knew our situation before it even occurred and He also knew of His plan to rescue us, to save us from eternal death. When God first created that plan may be unknown to us, yet we know His plan continues to unfold today, that His plan is still working even when we don't realize it.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

Describe the world before the first sin occurred.

Name two things that occurred immediately after the Fall into sin.

What is free will and how does it work?

Describe the reaction of God toward each sin you commit.

Summarize the basic parts of God's plan.

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week our discussion will focus on God. We will look at some attributes of God, expand our knowledge of God, and understand some of the work we typically associate with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We will also

discuss what it means to believe in God and look at the alternative to believing which is spending eternity in hell.

For extra credit: Write a paragraph that describes hell as you imagine it. Within your paragraph, describe hell as clearly as you are able.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 3



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 14

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

Baptism IV

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Old Adam - _____

Contrition - _____

Repentance - _____

Evil desires - _____

Emerge - _____

Righteousness - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

 **“Using What You Know”** 
(Applying It To Life)

Why does the Old Man usually control your life more often than the New Man:

As you look at your life, what do you need your Baptism to help you do each day:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Describe the world before the first sin occurred.

What are two things that occurred immediately after the Fall into sin?

What is free will and how does it work?

What is the reaction of God every time you sin?

Summarize the basic parts of God’s plan.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Last week, we looked at the world before sin and realized it was a wonderful place. Then, we discussed the Fall, the changes that occurred, what sin does to God’s heart, and God’s plan to rescue us. Today, we need to talk about who God is and how God is working in your life.

LESSON

To begin, I have a challenge for you. I want you to define God in four sentences or less. I want you to think about what you know of God and His work and then create a definition of God that is four sentences or less. Write your definition on the inside of the front cover of your Handouts. In a moment, we will discuss your definitions.

(Give the students two or three minutes to write their definitions.)

Okay, now that you have defined God, how easy was it to come up with a definition for God?

Why is it difficult to define God?

We claim to believe in God; we act like we know all about Him, but, in actuality, we often merely know certain appropriate words or phrases. We claim to know who God is, yet when we attempt to describe God, we realize we don't know as much as we once thought.

Let's look at some of your definitions.

(Take time to have students share their definitions. As they do, add appropriate portions of their definitions to a list on the board.)

On the board, we now have several phrases that describe God, phrases that attempt to define God. In all honesty, we cannot fully define God because there is no complete and perfect definition for God. The best we can do is to describe Him using the information we have available.

Turn to page 15 in your Handouts. Let's see what basic descriptions of God we can find in the Bible.

Defining God

Look up each verse below and write one or two words that accurately define God as He is described in the verse.

1. John 4:24 _____
2. Psalm 90:1-2 _____
3. Malachi 3:6 _____
4. Matthew 19:26 _____
5. John 21:17 _____
6. Jeremiah 23:24 _____
7. Leviticus 19:2 _____
8. II Timothy 2:13 _____
9. Psalm 145:9 _____
10. Exodus 34:6-7 _____
11. Jonah 2:1-2 _____
12. Jeremiah 29:11 _____
13. Isaiah 40:28 _____

14. Isaiah 9:6

15. Psalm 34:10

16. Job 19:25

17. Deuteronomy 6:4

Each of these verses describe an attribute of God. They provide us with some basic information. If we had the time, we could continue describing God for the remainder of our class time. Yet, even if we did, we still wouldn't have a complete definition of God.

Since there is always more we can learn about our God, let's take what we know and expand it even more.

Look at page 16 in your Handouts.

Knowledge Expansion

Circle the number of each true statement as we expand our knowledge of God.

1. God is floating around in heaven unaware of what is really happening in our lives.
2. The Father loves each of us more than any parent could ever love us.
3. God created each person with a special purpose. We are each important and valuable to God.
4. God created a plan to save us from ourselves before the world existed.
5. God takes care of the world every day. He is actively involved in the inner workings of this world at every moment.
6. God made Himself known to people in the Old Testament in different ways than He makes Himself known today.
7. God knows every thought, word, and action of every person on the earth.
8. God created people to need Him only when they couldn't figure things out themselves because He is very busy keeping the world in order.
9. God sent Jesus to earth because His people needed some help with their faith.
10. Love and only love is what motivated God to save His people from eternity in hell.

11. If God decided not to function in the world for one day, we would still be alive at the end of that day.
12. God only forgives those who are really sorry and promise to do good deeds to earn His forgiveness.
13. God knows the names of every person who will be in heaven. Therefore, what we do with our lives doesn't really matter. It's already decided before it happens.
14. God's forgiveness is the greatest gift He has ever offered to His people.
15. God is able to do anything anyone asks Him to do, yet sometimes He doesn't do what we ask because it's not what is best.

Now that we have expanded our knowledge of God, I want to ask you a simple question, "Based on what you know about God, do you believe in God?"

It may sound like a simple question with a simple, obvious answer. Yet, oftentimes, we answer the question before we think about what it means to believe. We ramble off the words, "Yes, I believe in God," without thinking about what we are saying.

Turn to page 17 in your Handouts.

I Believe...

Which statements below accurately describe what you believe? In front of each statement you agree with, draw a star on the line.

- _____ 1. I believe God loves me every moment of every day, that nothing I do could cause Him to love me less.
- _____ 2. I believe God created a plan to save me before the world even existed, a plan He will carry out for my benefit.
- _____ 3. I believe Jesus arrived in the manger in order to die in my place on the cross. His death may have been for the whole world, but what matters most to me is that He died for me.
- _____ 4. I believe I deserve nothing from God, that God should have never claimed me as His child, that everything I receive is an incredible gift.
- _____ 5. I believe my life has a unique purpose, that God has incredible things planned for me and through me.
- _____ 6. I believe what I do in my life can make a significant difference for my God, that my part in His plan is important.

- _____ 7. I believe that the forgiveness Jesus made possible for me on the cross is the only way my relationship with God, which I broke by my sin, could be repaired.
- _____ 8. I believe God is still in control of our world even though bad things happen every day.
- _____ 9. I believe my entire life and what I accomplish is a response to my faith, a way to express my appreciation.
- _____ 10. I believe God has forgiven every sin in my past and that He will forgive every sin I commit in the future.
- _____ 11. I believe hell would have been my home for eternity if Jesus had not stepped in and rescued me.
- _____ 12. I believe heaven is my home by faith, that no matter what happens here, I will be in heaven one day.
- _____ 13. I believe I am as important to God as any one else in this classroom, that God loves me as much as He loves every other person.
- _____ 14. I believe every day of my life matters to God, that what I do each day is important to Him.

We can say, "I believe in God," yet, as we have seen, saying the words is simple. Believing what we say, now that's a different story. There are far too many people who merely say the words, yet don't believe what they are saying. Everything we intend to accomplish this year will be pointless and useless unless you believe in God, unless you believe what you learn about God and what He does just for you.

When we say, "I believe," we are claiming we know more than basic facts about our God. For that reason, we need to gather more information about the work of our God so believing is more to us than saying the right words or knowing some basic facts.

The work of our God is often divided into three areas relating to the three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The work we associate with each person of the Trinity is not their exclusive work. It's merely our way of attempting to define our God who is beyond human definition. Ordinarily, we speak of the Father and His work of Creation and Preservation, the Son and His work of Redemption, and the Holy Spirit and His work of Sanctification.

God the Father is primarily responsible for creating us and taking care of our basic needs. With Jesus, we typically associate the work of redemption, of buying us back from eternal death and the devil. The Holy Spirit's primary task is working faith in our hearts and maintaining that faith so we are able to arrive in heaven on our last day.

Based on that simple summary of the work of each person of the Trinity, look at page 18 in your Handouts.

Information Please!

For each statement below, determine which work of the Trinity it is most often associated with. Then, put the appropriate letter on the line using “P” for Preservation, “R” for Redemption, and “S” for Sanctification.

- _____ 1. I've been carrying a lot of guilt and want so much to get revenge, but I finally realized the best thing I could do is to lay it all before God and let Him take care of it.
- _____ 2. As I prepared for my recent test, I remembered the importance of prayer and I know God heard my prayer and answered my prayer as He knew best.
- _____ 3. I was feeling overwhelmed, like everything was going wrong and no one else seemed to care. Then, suddenly my friend came along and made things so much better.
- _____ 4. I got into a terrible argument with one of my friends. I said things I wish I wouldn't have said. I asked and I now know God has forgiven me.
- _____ 5. I was struggling to believe God cared about me, that He was there for me in my tough times, but then God helped me in a wonderful way.
- _____ 6. I knew basic information about God, but had not really seen Him work in my life. Then one day, I noticed God's incredible work in a simple sunrise.
- _____ 7. I came to church because something told me I needed to be there in order to worship and praise my God.
- _____ 8. I confessed all my sins to my God and was able to believe that my relationship with God had been repaired because of His forgiveness.
- _____ 9. I came down with the flu and was sick in bed for two days, but by the third day, I was feeling better and able to be back in school.
- _____ 10. I was having my doubts about God helping me with my homework, but the next day, everything worked out.
- _____ 11. I found myself in trouble, asked God to get me out of my situation, yet nothing seemed to happen. Fortunately, I made it through the situation and things got better.
- _____ 12. I came to church feeling I was only there because I had to be, but by the end of the service, I knew I was in the right place and that God was there with me.

Defining God based on His work in our lives does help us expand our definition and understanding of God. Yet, sometimes we need direct, “in our face”

information that makes it crystal clear that we need God, that we can't survive without Him, that believing in God is a necessity.

One wake up call that gets our attention is a realization of the alternative, of what lies ahead if we choose not to believe or to only believe facts that have no real affect on life.

As your extra credit last week, I asked you to write a paragraph describing hell as you imagine it. Let's look at some of your paragraphs to see what you know about this horrible place.

(Discuss as time permits and based on how helpful their information is in making the alternative very clear in their minds.)

Look at the page 19 in your Handouts titled, "Welcome to Hell!"

Welcome to Hell!

Read the statements below. Put an "X" over the number of each statement that is false.

1. Hell is a place reserved for horrible people who everyone would agree don't deserve to be in heaven.
2. If I arrive in hell, I will know in the first ten seconds that I made a terrible mistake by not maintaining my faith in God.
3. In hell, people suffer horribly twenty-four hours a day every day of the week. They desperately want the pain to go away, but there is absolutely no relief available.
4. In hell, God still answers prayers and demonstrates His love.
5. In hell, He still shows His kindness by relieving some of the pain for those who at least claimed to believe in Him.
6. Hell is a place where you never get old and die, never die of an illness, and never die because of an accident.
7. If I arrived in hell, I will wish with all my heart that I could go back and tell the rest of my family how horrible it really was and how to avoid ending up there.
8. If I arrived in hell, I would be surprised by some of the people who would be there that I never expected would end up in hell.
9. If I died and went to hell, it couldn't possibly be as bad as people make it out to be.
10. Hell has different levels; some people suffer far less than others do in hell.

11. If I reject God, I will end up in hell. It is the only other possible alternative.
12. As long as I know basic facts about God, I'm guaranteed to never end up in hell.
13. When my last day arrives, the only question that will matter is, "Did I have faith? Did I believe in Christ as my Lord and Savior?"
14. Anything I can imagine, anything I have heard about hell doesn't begin to compare to what hell is really like.
15. Any pain, any suffering, and the most horrible things I can imagine here will only be the tip of the iceberg of what I would experience if I ended up in hell.

As we look hell in the face, we can be very grateful there is another alternative, that by believing in God, in the proper sense of the phrase, we are able to avoid hell and spend eternity in heaven which is the exact opposite of everything in hell.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

As we close our class time today, let's take a few moments to review our discussion.

What are three attributes, three things we know about God?

As we expanded our knowledge of God, what did we learn?

Name three things you believe about God based on our discussion today.

What three terms do we use to describe the work of each person of the Trinity?

Give me your best description of hell.

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will take the next step in our journey by moving into the topic of Baptism, the beginning of our faith journey. We will look at what Baptism is, our part in Baptism, what it means to be part of God's family, and why we believe in infant Baptism.

For extra credit: Bring me your Baptism date.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 4



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

What are three attributes of God?

Beyond the basics attributes, what else can you tell me about God?

What is the difference between knowing of God and believing in God?

What three terms do we use to describe the work of each person of the Trinity?

Describe your picture of hell.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Last week, we discussed who God is, the need to believe in God and to know more than facts about God. At the end of our lesson, we painted a picture of hell as the alternative to faith in God. Today, we take the next step in our journey by moving into the topic of Baptism, the beginning of our faith journey. We will look at what Baptism is, our part in Baptism, what it means to be part of God's family, and why we believe in infant Baptism.

LESSON

We began our course this year learning what it means to be a Christian and also a Lutheran Christian. From there, we returned to the beginning of creation as we looked at how things once were, what changed, and where we find ourselves today. Last week, we focused on who God is and what we believe about God.

Today, we take the next logical step on our journey by focusing on Baptism, the place where our Christian life began. Life with God begins for the majority of us at our Baptism. On less common occasions, the Holy Spirit may work faith in someone's heart and later they are baptized, but typically life with Christ begins at Baptism.

Since our Christian life typically begins at Baptism, we need to understand some basic information about Baptism.

Before we do that, how many of you brought your Baptism date?

(Gather their Baptism date information and continue with:)

Your Baptism date is a very important date because it identifies when you became a child of God, when God adopted you into His family. It's an important date because that's where your faith journey with Christ began.

Turn to page 20 in your Handouts so we can look at some basics of Baptism.

Baptism Is...

As we seek to understand some basics about Baptism, respond to the statements below by circling the number of each true statement.

1. Baptism is nothing more than plain water.
2. When the water is used in Baptism, it becomes holy water.
3. In Baptism, the water has power.
4. The water used in Baptism is merely the visible sign of the invisible work God is doing at Baptism.
5. Without God's Word, the water in Baptism does nothing.
6. The more water the Pastor uses, the more faith the child receives.
7. The water of Baptism receives power only when God's Word is attached.
8. Speaking the words of Baptism but not using water, would still be a valid Baptism.
9. Baptism is optional; God has not given us a command to baptize.
10. Normally, the Pastor is to do a Baptism, but, in an emergency, any Christian should baptize.
11. All the blessings and benefits of Baptism are available through the water and the Word of God used at Baptism.
12. Baptism does nothing more than make you a member of the church.
13. Christ instituted Baptism as His primary way to work faith in the hearts of His people.
14. Baptism only works faith. After faith exists, Baptism is of little importance.
15. Baptism must always be done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Your life in Christ began at Baptism, on a day you can't remember. On that day, water was connected with God's Word and through that connection, God worked an amazing work in your heart. He planted the seed of faith, a seed He intends to grow and produce fruit.

As we think back to our Baptism, it's easy for us to believe we did something, that we played a part in the faith that now lives in our hearts. Yet, Baptism is not our work, but God's work. It's not God picking up where we left off, but God in action from beginning to end. No matter how you view it, Baptism is and always will be all about God.

To imprint that truth in your minds, look at the next page in your Handouts.

At the Beginning

Draw a star on the line preceding each true statement.

- _____ 1. I was born with an interest in God.
- _____ 2. Even though it may not be noticeable, I played an important part in my coming to faith.
- _____ 3. When I was born, I didn't even know God or have any intention of coming to faith.
- _____ 4. I decided to believe in God without help from anyone else.
- _____ 5. Before I was baptized, I didn't sin. I was too little to sin.
- _____ 6. The moment I was born, I was already lost and in desperate need of God's intervention.
- _____ 7. Before my Baptism, God was making sure I didn't do anything wrong.
- _____ 8. Even though I was a baby, coming to faith was still part my work and part God's work.
- _____ 9. God would not work faith unless I had done something to earn that faith.
- _____ 10. The reason I have faith and someone else does not is because I am a better person.
- _____ 11. Everything related to faith is always God's work. I never do anything to earn faith.
- _____ 12. God chose to work faith in my heart at Baptism because He looked into the future and knew I would be a good person.

- _____ 13. God worked faith in my heart at Baptism because God loved me more than He loved someone else.
- _____ 14. Since God knew I would believe later in life, He worked faith in my heart at my Baptism.

In our minds, it seems only logical that we would play a part in our Baptism, that we would do something in order to receive the gift of faith. Yet all those ideas are untrue. Baptism was all about God when it occurred in your life and it's still all about God today. Any time we recall our Baptism, we must connect God because without God, Baptism is nothing.

Since Baptism is all about God and since we were baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we need to take a few minutes to consider what it means to be part of God's family.

Look at page 22 in your Handouts.

Welcome to the Family

At the moment of your Baptism, you became a member of God's family. Read each statement below. If the statement is true, draw a smiley face on the line. If it is false, draw a sad face on the line.

- _____ 1. By my Baptism, I now possess a special place in the family of God.
- _____ 2. Everything that belongs to those who are part of God's family now belongs to me because of my Baptism.
- _____ 3. As I arrived in God's family, God promised everything in life would be wonderful.
- _____ 4. At my Baptism, God adopted me into a family I didn't deserve or earn.
- _____ 5. As I was baptized, God wrote my name in His book containing the names of those who would be in heaven one day.
- _____ 6. As God welcomed me into His family, the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were placed into my heart.
- _____ 7. As I arrived in God's family, God prepared to bless me in ways beyond my understanding.
- _____ 8. As a member of God's family, the Holy Spirit will protect my faith.
- _____ 9. Because I'm a member of God's family, God has promised to watch over me and protect me.
- _____ 10. As a member of God's family, the devil can no longer bother me.

- _____ 11. As part of God’s family, I have power available to me that is beyond my imagination.
- _____ 12. Because of my Baptism, I have a place in a family I could never have dreamed of on my own.
- _____ 13. As God welcomed me into His family at my Baptism, I received the greatest gift anyone could ever give.
- _____ 14. Because I am part of God’s family, I know nothing is impossible if God wants it done.
- _____ 15. As part of the family of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I no longer sin.

Being a member of the family of God, being baptized into the family of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the most significant event that will ever occur in your life. What belongs to you as part of God’s family is far more valuable than anything else. As you arrived in God’s family, you were adopted into the greatest family on earth!

Being adopted into God’s family as a baby sounds logical because that’s often when a family adopts a child into their family. Yet, there are those who question and even challenge infant Baptism, who insist that Baptism should not occur until the person is old enough to decide for themselves. What occurs in this line of thinking is that the individual themselves somehow plays a part in Baptism, even though we have said that Baptism is all about God.

Turn to page 23 in your Handouts as we consider some statements related to baptizing babies, to what we call “Infant Baptism.”

Yes, Babies!

Circle the number of each true statement as we learn why we baptize babies.

1. We baptize babies because God told us to baptize all people.
2. We baptize babies because it is the only way babies can have the promise of eternal life.
3. When we baptize a baby, God invites them into His special family.
4. When we baptize a baby, the Holy Spirit works faith in their hearts even though they can’t tell us what they believe.
5. Baptizing babies makes perfect sense! It makes it crystal clear that it’s all God’s work.

6. Babies don't really need Baptism because they only sin when they are old even to know better.
7. Since we are born with sin, every baby needs Baptism as soon as possible after they are born.
8. If we exclude babies, there is no way to decide at what age we should baptize.
9. If we wait until a person is older to baptize, we are saying that God's command to baptize all nations does not apply to babies.
10. Since the Holy Spirit works faith without any assistance from us, faith can exist in the heart of a baby.
11. Jesus loves babies and has made it clear in His Word that He wants them to be part of His family.
12. If something should happen to a baby, our only guarantee of heaven is found in Baptism.
13. Since babies sin, babies need Baptism just as much as the rest of us.
14. Only people who can tell us what they believe can have faith.
15. If God intended Baptism to be only after a certain age, He would have made that clear in His Word.

Infant Baptism is what God expects and what God commands. We have no evidence against infant Baptism. Since babies can believe, since God has commanded infant Baptism, and since Jesus invites little children, we know baptizing babies is what God intends us to do.

Before we end our class time today, we need to take a few minutes to discuss sponsors. Most of you, when you were baptized, had sponsors. Yet, oftentimes, we fail to realize the purpose of our sponsors and simply view them as someone who was there the day of our Baptism and who gives us extra gifts because they are our sponsors. Yet there's far more to being a sponsor.

Turn to page 24 so we can learn more information about sponsors.

Me & My Sponsors

On the line in front of each statement, write "yes" for each statement you believe to be accurate regarding sponsors.

- _____ 1. My sponsors were at my Baptism to witness that the Baptism was done properly in the name of the Triune God.

- _____ 2. My sponsors include me in their prayers asking God to guide my life.
- _____ 3. My sponsors do very little for me after Baptism occurs and the first year goes by.
- _____ 4. My sponsors do what they can to make sure I remain in my Christian faith.
- _____ 5. My sponsors take on added responsibilities for my Christian upbringing if my parents are unable or fail to do so.
- _____ 6. My sponsor's responsibilities end when I am old enough to go to Sunday School.
- _____ 7. My sponsors realized that they took on very serious responsibilities the day of my Baptism.
- _____ 8. My sponsors provide me with a special gift on the anniversary of my Baptism.
- _____ 9. My sponsors do all they can to maintain a relationship with me as I get older.
- _____ 10. My sponsors believe that their work ended the day I began school.
- _____ 11. Since my sponsors promised to do what they could to see that I am raised in the Lutheran church, it was best that my sponsors were Lutheran.
- _____ 12. My sponsors realize that God has given them an important work to do as my sponsor.
- _____ 13. My sponsors don't even seem to remember that they are my sponsors.
- _____ 14. My sponsors realize that their primary responsibilities end at my Confirmation.
- _____ 15. My sponsors seem to realize that they have an important task to fulfill as my sponsors.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

As we close our class time today, let's take a few moments to review our discussion.

What is Baptism based on our discussion today?

What part did you play in your Baptism and what part did God play?

Because you are now part of God's family, what blessings or privileges do you possess?

What reasons can you give for infant Baptism?

What are three reasons why we have sponsors for a Baptism?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will continue our discussion of Baptism as we talk about the benefits of Baptism, how Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues us from eternal death and the devil, and gives eternal life to all who believe.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK



Outline - Lesson 5



OPENING PRAYER

MEMORY WORK

MEMORY WORK TERMS & APPLICATION: PAGE 25

Terms & Application

❖ “Imprint On The Mind” ❖
(Memory Work)

First Article

℞ “Understanding Before Imprinting” ℞
(Defining Terms)

Reason - _____

Support - _____

Divine - _____

Mercy - _____

Merit - _____

Worthiness - _____

📁 “In Simple Terms” 📁
(In Your Own Words)

⌚ **“Using What You Know”** ⌚
(Applying It To Life)

What would happen in your life tomorrow if God stopped taking care of you:

What can you do today to thank, praise, serve, and obey your God:

QUIZ TIME

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Based on our discussion last week, what is Baptism?

What part did you play in your Baptism and what part did God play?

Because you are now part of God’s family, what blessings or privileges do you possess?

What reasons can you give for infant Baptism?

What are three reasons why we have sponsors for a Baptism?

LESSON OVERVIEW

Last week, we looked at the beginning of our faith journey as we discussed the basics of Baptism. Today, we continue our discussion of Baptism by looking at the benefits of Baptism which include assuring us of forgiveness, rescuing us from death and the devil, and offering the promise of our crown of life. Near the end of our class time, we will talk about how we can live our Baptism.

LESSON

To begin, we need to ask a basic question, “What does Baptism do?” We can know what Baptism is, yet if that’s all we know, Baptism has no purpose. We need to have a clear understanding of what Baptism does for us, what benefits it provides.

Look at page 209 in your Catechism (Textbook).

What do you receive by virtue of your Baptism?

Forgiveness of sins
Deliverance from death and the devil
Gift of eternal life

Turn to page 26 in your Handouts.

It's Still Working...

Our Catechism states that Baptism works forgiveness of sins. Based on that statement, circle the number of each true statement below.

1. Because I am baptized, I am automatically forgiven for every sin I ever commit.
2. Baptism offers me more forgiveness than I can receive through the pronouncement of forgiveness offered in the worship service.
3. Since I am baptized, it's okay for me to disobey God because I already know He will forgive me.
4. The forgiveness offered at my Baptism was useful at that time, but no longer has any benefits.
5. Each morning as I wake up, it's important for me to remember I am a baptized child of God.
6. Since the forgiveness of sins is offered through Baptism, I don't need to confess my sins and hear the pronouncement of forgiveness at worship.
7. The forgiveness provided to me through my Baptism is as sure as if Christ stood before me and said, "I forgive you all your sins."
8. Through Baptism, I have a visible reminder that God forgives, that He forgives me when I ask for His forgiveness.
9. When I'm 90 years old, the forgiveness offered at my Baptism will be just as useful as it is today.
10. When I make a mistake, remembering what God offers at my Baptism can help me deal with my guilt.
11. My Baptism assures me every day that God still loves me and will forgive me no matter what happens in my day.
12. Because I am baptized, I always know God is with me and ready to listen when I speak to Him.
13. The assurance of forgiveness, which was provided visibly at my Baptism, will remain available to me my entire life.

14. The forgiveness offered at my Baptism enables me to get more forgiveness than what is available in a worship service.

Baptism works for you the moment it occurs and every moment after. Yet the forgiveness offered through Baptism is only available as you remain in the faith. If you choose to walk away from the faith, you also walk away from the assurance of forgiveness offered in your Baptism. For that reason, we need to maintain our faith and the knowledge that, through Baptism, we receive visible proof that we are forgiven by God.

Baptism not only offers forgiveness, it also rescues us from death and the devil. But what does it mean when we say that Baptism rescues us?

Look at the next page in your Handouts.

Rescuing Me

Draw a star on the line in front of each statement you believe is true.

- _____ 1. Because of my sins, which I commit daily, I have a desperate need to be rescued.
- _____ 2. If God had not created a plan to rescue me, I would surely end up in hell forever.
- _____ 3. Because of my Baptism, I know God will save me regardless of what happens in my life.
- _____ 4. My Baptism assures me that I will never face eternal death.
- _____ 5. If God had not rescued me through Baptism, I would have never known Him and His work.
- _____ 6. Since God rescued me, the devil doesn't bother me anymore.
- _____ 7. As God rescued me from the devil, He made it impossible for the devil to tempt me to sin.
- _____ 8. As God rescued me, He made it impossible for the devil to deprive me of eternal life provided I maintain my faith.
- _____ 9. As God rescued me, He enabled me to live with the promise of eternal life in heaven.
- _____ 10. When God rescued me, I was doing pretty well on my own, but simply needed a little extra help from God.
- _____ 11. Although the devil still tries to lead me away from my God, I have the confidence that God will not let the devil destroy me.

- _____ 12. Because I know Jesus rescued me, I want to do all I can to serve Him.
- _____ 13. Since I've been rescued from eternal death, I choose to use my life to make a difference for my God.
- _____ 14. Every day I wake up, I can thank my God for rescuing me and ask Him to protect me as I face what lies ahead.
- _____ 15. Being rescued from death and the devil is the greatest event that ever happened in my life.

Through Baptism, God rescued us, not because of what we had done, but because of His love for us. If it hadn't been for the love of God, there would have been no rescue and we would spend eternity in hell. Every day, we have good reason to thank our God for rescuing us through Baptism.

As we consider the benefits of Baptism, what our Baptism does for us, we also need to consider God's promise of eternal life.

Look at page 28 in your Handouts.

My Eternal Crown

We speak so often about eternal life that we sometimes forget what those words mean to us. On the line in front of each statement you believe to be true about eternal life, write the word, "yes."

- _____ 1. As long as I am baptized, I am guaranteed to spend eternity in heaven.
- _____ 2. Baptism is my ticket to heaven. Nothing I do in life will change what God has offered at my Baptism.
- _____ 3. The promise of eternal life with God remains mine as long as I hold on to my faith.
- _____ 4. The eternal life offered through my Baptism isn't all that important. What matters most is how I live my life.
- _____ 5. Baptism can only give me eternal salvation if I live my life in a certain way and do what God tells me to do.
- _____ 6. As long as I do enough good deeds, I always know God will take me to heaven some day.
- _____ 7. Whether I receive my crown of life or not depends only on faith and nothing else.

- _____ 8. If the only information I had about God was the information about my Baptism, I would still know that I would be in heaven one day.
- _____ 9. The eternal life offered through my Baptism was made possible because God knew I would be a good person.
- _____ 10. My eternal crown is waiting for me in heaven because I go to church and say, "I believe in God the Father Almighty..."
- _____ 11. As I remember my Baptism, I always have the comfort that my eternity will be far better than life in the present.
- _____ 12. My crown of life is guaranteed by faith and nothing but faith.
- _____ 13. God offers the crown of eternal life to all people who truly believe in Him.
- _____ 14. Depending on how I live my life, God can give or take away my crown of eternal life.

Eternal life is a precious gift from God, a gift He has offered us through Baptism. By holding on to our Baptism and the faith worked at our Baptism, we know we will one day receive our crown of eternal life.

While we are discussing Baptism and what Baptism offers us, let's look at what God's Word says about Baptism to help us understand more of the benefits of our Baptism.

Look at the next page in your Handouts.

The Bible & Baptism

Look up the passages on the left and then match them with the appropriate statement on the right. Put the letter of the passages on the blank before the proper statement.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| a. Colossians 2:6-7 | <u> L </u> | Since I have been baptized, I have put on Christ |
| b. Psalm 51:4 | <u> I </u> | It is Baptism that saves me |
| c. Romans 6:13 | <u> K </u> | In Baptism, I was buried with Christ |
| d. Psalm 51:5 | <u> A </u> | Since I have been baptized, I am to walk in Christ |
| e. Acts 22:16 | <u> D </u> | I was born in sin and was in need of Baptism |

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------|---|
| f. | Luke 15:21 | <u>J</u> | Because I believe and am baptized, I will be saved |
| g. | John 3:5-6 | <u>M</u> | I need to repent and be baptized for forgiveness |
| h. | II Corinthians 5:17 | <u>P</u> | By Baptism, I have been washed clean |
| i. | I Peter 3:21 | <u>H</u> | By Baptism, I am a new creation |
| j. | Mark 16:16 | <u>G</u> | Unless I am baptized, I cannot enter God's kingdom |
| k. | Romans 6:3-4 | <u>E</u> | I was baptized to wash away my sin |
| l. | Galatians 3:26-27 | <u>N</u> | Because of Baptism, I have the hope of eternal life |
| m. | Acts 2:38 | <u>C</u> | By Baptism, I am alive from the dead, an instrument of God |
| n. | Titus 3:5-7 | <u>B</u> | My sin is always against God |
| o. | Psalms 38:18 | <u>O</u> | I am to be sorry for my sins |
| p. | I Corinthians 6:11 | <u>F</u> | I have sinned against heaven; I am not worthy to be called God's son/daughter |

Now that we have discussed the benefits of our Baptism, we want to look at one more page in our Handouts (page 30) as we apply the information from today to our everyday lives.

Living My Baptism

Which statements below are true when you are living each day with the knowledge of the blessings of your Baptism? Circle the number of each true statement.

1. Each day can be viewed as a great day because I know I belong to the family of the Triune God.
2. Whatever the day may bring, I know the crown of eternal life is always mine.
3. I am reassured that I am forgiven even when I knowingly disobey my God.
4. I know Christ lives within me; He is in control; He will guide as I allow Him to do so.
5. I do good things in my day because I know it will keep God happy with me.

6. I sense a closeness to God, that God is with me and wants what is best for me.
7. I do what I choose in my day because I know God must forgive me because I'm a baptized child of God.
8. I enjoy each day to the fullest, make the most of each moment, and thank my God for all His gifts as the day ends.
9. When others hurt me or say unkind things about me, I am able to reassure myself of what God says and move beyond the comments of others.
10. I can begin and end each day knowing that, because of my Baptism, God loves me and cares for me.
11. I look for opportunities to make a good difference for my God as my way of showing my appreciation to Him.
12. I look forward to worship as my opportunity to hear God speak and to offer Him my praise.
13. I do my best to resist temptations knowing that's what God expects from me as a baptized child.
14. I remember to be grateful for what I have instead of always thinking I need more.
15. I appreciate people of all ages, especially the elderly, knowing that, by faith, that same crown of eternal life belongs to each of them.

Our God gave us a great gift as He instituted Baptism, a gift we need to value. As each new day arrives, God is waiting for us to live our Baptism, to live each day under the umbrella of our Baptism.

REVIEW OF THE DAY

As we close our class time today, let's take a few moments to review our discussion.

How long does the forgiveness offered in your Baptism last?

Why did God need to rescue you from death and the devil?

By Baptism, does your eternal crown become a reality or a possibility?

What are two things you can do to live your Baptism?

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will complete our discussion of Baptism, the beginning of our faith-life, as we discuss how Baptism gets its power, how the blessings of Baptism become ours, and the daily battle that rages within us.

TEST NEXT WEEK

Next week, after we finish our lesson, we will have a test over the material we have covered so far this year. To prepare for the test, I encourage you to take your Class Handouts home and review pages 1-30. Pages 31-36 will be discussed next week and will also be included on the test.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADDITIONAL MEMORY WORK

