

The following lesson was written by Dawn Clark. This lesson was written to teach individuals affected by disability about baptism and can be adapted to your church. Dawn serves as a disability ministry educator and advocate through STARS, the disability ministry of College Church in Wheaton, IL. Dawn also serves as an adjunct professor at Moody Bible Institute.

Believe and Be Baptized

Biblical Truth:

Baptism shows other people that I believe in Jesus, that he has taken away my sins on the cross and now the Holy Spirit lives in me and helps me obey God.

Bible Verse:

“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Gal. 5:22-23

Worship in Song (15 minutes) – Student runs visuals

- A few suggested songs...
 - The Fruit of the Spirit
 - Lord Be Glorified
 - Lord I Want to be a Christian
 - Thank you, Lord
 - Awesome God
 - Nothing but the Blood

Bible Story – Phillip and the Ethiopian; Acts 8:28-35 (30 minutes)

1. **Intro Question:** How many of you have been baptized? When were you baptized? Who baptized you?
2. Read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:28-35 or show a short video such as [this one from Saddleback Kids](#).
3. Today we are going to see the story of a man from a country in Africa called Ethiopia. The Holy Spirit tells Phillip, one of Jesus’ disciples to go and tell the man about Jesus. Let’s see what happens.
4. After sharing the story, ask a few questions. Page three has more sample questions for this passage.
 - A. What was the Ethiopian reading? The newspaper or the Bible?
 - B. Who explained the Bible to the Ethiopian—Phillip or Abraham?
 - C. Who did the Ethiopian believe in?
 - D. What did Jesus do for him?
 - E. Was the Ethiopian baptized before he believed or after he believed in Jesus?
 - F. Where did the Ethiopian go after he was baptized? To the movies or home?

5. **Making it Personal:** Anybody who believes in Jesus can be baptized. Let's see Ben get baptized. [*Show video of the baptism of Ben*](#), a young man with Down syndrome. After the video ask the following questions:
 - A. What did the Pastor ask Ben?
 - B. What did Ben say?
 - C. How was Ben baptized?
 - D. Why did Ben get baptized?
6. **Demonstrate:** You can demonstrate baptism and the symbolism by having a student go through the motions.
 - A. The pastor puts his hand over your nose, so no water gets into your nose.
 - B. The pastor says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."
 - C. When you go down into the water this shows that Jesus' death on the cross has taken away your sins.
 - D. When you come up out of the water, this shows that the Holy Spirit will help you live a life that pleases Jesus.

Note: Be sensitive to any questions the students may have or fears about being in the water.

Prayer Time (10 minutes)

Craft (20 minutes)

There are many craft projects telling the story of the Ethiopian being baptized available online. Choose one appropriate for your students and the allotted time.

Lesson Review Game

1. Put blanks on the board for the number of letters in the following phrase:
Believe and be Baptized _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
2. Put the letters on the board that are in that phrase on the board.
(B, E, L, I, E, V, A, N, D, P, T, Z)
3. Divide the students into two teams. Ask Team 1 a question. After the student answers the question, the student chooses a letter. If they have trouble answering the question, let their teammates help. Then ask Team 2 a question. Repeat until all letters are chosen or the students guess the phrase.

Questions:

1. What was the Ethiopian reading? The newspaper or the Bible?
2. Who explained the Bible to the Ethiopian—Phillip or Abraham?
3. Was the Ethiopian baptized before he believed or after he believed?
4. Where did the Ethiopian go after he was baptized? To the movies or home?
5. Where was he baptized? In river or in a swimming pool?
6. We watched a video about Ben being baptized. Does Ben believe in Jesus?
7. Did Ben read his testimony before he was baptized?
8. Who baptized Ben? His pastor or his mother?
9. Where was Ben baptized? In a river or in his church?
10. When the pastor baptized Ben, what did he say? “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the _____.”
11. Does going down into the water show us that the old life of not believing in Jesus is gone?
12. Does coming up out of the water show that a new life in Jesus has begun?
13. Does baptism show everyone that you are a Christian and a child of God?
14. Should you be baptized if you don't believe in Jesus?
15. Does the Holy Spirit help you grow?
16. Name one way the Holy Spirit helps you.

Closing Prayer: Ask a Student to Pray