



DATE(S)

October 29-30, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Baptism – One Off Message

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Baptism shows we're all in!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 3:5-6, 13-17

Romans 6:4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

“Face Booty Awesome”

A fun video-based game where everyone decides if the person gets hit in the face, falls on their booty, or does something awesome! This is a process-of-elimination game so the last student/group standing wins a prize!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Have you ever spent a crazy amount of time learning how to do something new? If so, what was it?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Baptism One-Off Message October 29-30, 2022

How many of you like watching nature documentaries on TV or Netflix? Yeah, there's like Planet Earth, Earth, Blue Planet, stuff on the Discovery Channel. It turns out that in order to film some of those documentaries (like Planet Earth for example), filmmakers and cameramen had to be out in the wild capturing footage for over 5 ½ years!! Crazy!

One of the episodes shows a bird called the Mandarin Duck. They live in eastern Asia and the moms will often lay their eggs inside of tall trees at the top so they can be safe from predators. However, once the ducklings hatch, the mother must get them to water immediately. However, a pretty big step is required to make that happen...

(Teacher's Note: Show "Duckling Jump" video)

Be honest, how many of you are scared of heights? So, if you were a duck, you would still be up in the tree, wouldn't you?! In all seriousness, this gives us a great illustration for what we're going to talk about today. When any person makes a decision to become a Christian, to commit to following Jesus for the rest of their life, they have to make a similar "leap" or decision to let people know they're "all in" with their faith. This step is called baptism.

THP (Take Home Point) – Baptism shows you're all in!

Baptism is talked about in the New Testament 21 times, and in the original Greek language, it's defined as "being immersed, submerged, or dipped under the water." For some of you who may have never heard of baptism or know what it means, this can seem kind of strange. Why would someone who becomes a Christian have to go under water for a couple of seconds in order to show that they have a relationship with Jesus now? I can certainly see why you would think that way so my job today is to explain the significance of this important step in our faith. Let's check out the first example we see of baptism in the New Testament for some context.

THE MESSAGE

In the New Testament in Matthew 3, we learn about a man named John. He is a prophet who is challenging people to put their faith in God and change the way they live. Let's read a little bit from Matthew 3:5-6 – *"People went out to him [John] from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River."* The first step in becoming a Christian is confessing that you have sinned; or you have disobeyed God. Since none of us are perfect like God is, that means we are all sinners. So, people came to John, confessed their sins, and then he baptized them.

This was a public thing. Unless you're going for a swim, why else would you be in the water? Essentially, it could be seen as a little embarrassing because you're admitting you're a sinner and you need God. What will people think? What will they say? I'm speculating a little, but I'm sure a few people thought that as they were baptized by John. However, the story doesn't stop there. Let's read on in Matthew 3:13-17 – *"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented."*

John believes that Jesus is the Messiah, which means he believed Jesus was the Son of God. That's why John is like, "Me? Baptize you? That's totally backwards! You should baptize me!" In a way, he's right. People are being baptized because they are confessing their sins. Well, Jesus is the perfect Son of God – He has no sins to confess!

I believe Jesus is baptized because He is telling us something very important: when He says "it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness," He is saying that His baptism ensures that when we are baptized, we are made righteous in the eyes of God. Let me explain – in soccer and hockey, if you run out of time in a game, you go to a shootout. One shooter, one goalie. However, each team gets to try and match each other. However, if one person misses and the other person scores, the game is over and that team wins. In other words, it's one person's goal, but the entire team benefits and they all get a team win after an individual victory.

That's how it is with Jesus! His baptism and His righteousness are given to us because we can't be righteous on our own. That's pretty cool – we get to experience a reward (righteousness) that we didn't have to do anything to earn. Jesus scored the goal for us (His baptism – and eventually His death on the cross, and His resurrection) so we could all experience the victory.

THE MESSAGE

Now...back to our THP (Take Home Point) – **Baptism shows we're all in.** When you get baptized, it's your way of saying, "I'm letting go of my previous life of sin and embracing this new life following God." Paul says it like this in Romans 6:4 in the New Testament – *"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."* Baptism is kind of like "dying" to our old way of life (going under) and being "raised up" out of the water into our new life...just like Jesus's death on the cross and then raising from the dead. We are saying we are ALL IN with our faith in Jesus. We are completely committed to trusting in Him with our whole life.

Listen, you can't go underwater completely and only get a little wet. It's all or nothing! When those ducklings jump out of the tree, it doesn't matter if they crawl out, fall out, jump out, or get blown out by the wind...they are making the jump! That's baptism. That's being all in!

(Teacher's Note: Explain there is a baptism coming up next weekend on November 5-6 as well as a class they need to take if they want to be baptized. Encourage students who have made a decision to follow Jesus to consider being baptized! Encourage them to tell their life group leader about their interest, gather those names, and then reach out to those specific families over the next two weeks about their student's interest in baptism)

One final question...are you all in? Are you ready to jump out of the tree like those ducklings? Not literally, I promise! I mean an "all-in faith jump." God was "all in" with loving us so our gift back to Him is to be "all in" with our faith. The best way to show that is through baptism. Let's pray!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Does anyone remember why Jesus was baptized? What was He trying to teach us through His baptism?

Let's re-read a verse we looked at during the message: Romans 6:4. Will someone read that for us?

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

What was one thing that stood out to you about this verse? It could be a word, phrase, a question, or something you're confused about.

How would you define being "all in" as a Christian and follower of Jesus?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

If any of the students in your group are interested in getting baptized, please take their names down and give them to the student pastor at your campus. We will follow up with their families this week!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister