

## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Baptism*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

#### I wonder...

- What is original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

#### I believe...

- Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482)
- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)
- Chartpaper or whiteboard/markers

#### References:

- Bible: Genesis 3, Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20, Acts 16:31-33, 19:3-5
- Catechism Q&A questions: 229, 472, 481-493
- Catechism 8.1.2.2
- 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 51 – Holy Baptism](#)
  - [Episode 57 – Infant Baptism](#)

### PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

How would you define 'commitment'? What are you committed to? Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_ where we'll be talking about our relationship with God .

### POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary
- Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions were about Holy Baptism. It was explained that Holy Baptism is a sacrament of the church and how it isn't purely a ritual, but a fundamental act of God's grace. Holy Baptism washes away original sin (the fall into sin by Adam and Eve) and leads the soul out of remoteness from God. Consider discussing with your child the importance of commitments and what it means to be committed to God. If your child has been baptized, consider sharing a picture of their baptism with them and/or share details you remember from that day.

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.  
 Your Youth Leaders

### SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

### HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Consider writing the responses on the chartpaper or whiteboard.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students how they would define the word 'commitment'. What are some examples of commitments?
- Some examples could be:
  - Going to school
  - Being married
  - Participating on a sports team or band/orchestra ( or any other extra curricular activity)
  - Having a car
- Ask the students what signifies the commitment, meaning, what makes it a commitment?
- Some possible answers could be:
  - Going to school→ **registering for classes**
  - Being married → **making vows to each other, marriage license, ceremony**
  - Participating on a sports team→ **trying out and making the team, signing up to play a certain sport or extra curricular activity**
  - Having a car→ **the purchase documents (contract/lease), registration document**
- Commitments are made, they usually signify a change, and there is some event that happens to indicate a commitment has been made.
- Holy Baptism is a commitment that God makes to us and we make to God.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

#### I wonder...

- What is original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- The definition of sin is also covered in discussion T8 from the "Transform your nature using Jesus as your example" semester.
- Throughout the discussion, it is important to not refer to 'original sin' as 'inherited sin,' especially when referring to baptism. The term 'inherited sin' can cause confusion and contribute to the incorrect notion that we inherit sins from our family.
- Consider asking the students what the three sacraments of the New Apostolic Church are (Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Sealing).
- Consider reviewing the definition of a sacrament from V6 : "sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)

Continue the lesson by saying something like: before we see what original sin is, let's take a step back and define sin in general.

### Student Question #1 What is sin?

- Allow the students to share their thoughts on what they understand sin to be.
- Summarize, or correct if needed, with the definition from the Catechism Q&A
  - Sin is everything that opposes the will of God and is contrary to His being. This includes all words, deeds, and thoughts that are contrary to the will and being of God. It is also sin to intentionally neglect to do good. (Catechism Q&A question 229)

### Student Question #2 What is original sin?

- Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482)

If time allows, ask a student or multiple students to read the full account of the fall into sin found in Genesis 3.

Ask a student, or multiple students, to read the "**Spotlight: God Gives Humans A Choice**" on page 9 of the IGNITE Bible.

This choice that is written about in the "*Spotlight*" commentary is given to us as well today; The choice to choose for God, or against God.

When we decide to choose for God, He expects and encourages us to make that choice known. That is one of the elements of baptism, professing the decision to follow Jesus Christ and relying on Him as our Savior.

Holy Baptism is a real act of God's loving care. It is the first and fundamental sacramental act of grace by the triune God on a human being who believes in Jesus Christ. In baptism, a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God occurs.

### Student Question #3 What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)
- Holy Baptism with water signifies the end of a life in remoteness from God and the beginning of life in Christ. It imparts strength to wage the battle against sin. (Catechism Q&A question 490)

- If students want an expanded explanation of why the New Apostolic Church believes in infant baptism, please share For Your Journey – [Episode 57 – Infant Baptism](#). This could also be shared with the students during the week after the discussion as a follow up.
- For more information on the difference between John's baptism and modern Christian baptism, please see the full Catechism section 8.1.2.2
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

**For those that are baptized as children, the time of Confirmation becomes the opportunity to make a public profession of faith and vow to renounce satan and remain faithful to God.**

**Student Question #4** What Biblical support is there for being baptized? Isn't faith in Jesus enough?

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages (full text of passages not included due to length):
  - Jesus is baptized: Matthew 3:13-17
    - It was not necessary for Jesus to be baptized, nevertheless He submitted to the baptism of John the Baptist. In so doing He put Himself on the same level as sinners. He thereby showed the way in which righteousness before God can be attained. The baptism of John was only a baptism unto repentance. (Catechism Q&A question 485)
  - Jesus commissions His Apostles to baptize all nations: Matthew 28:19
    - The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 has been highlighted a few times in the Youth THRIVE Small Group Curriculum, most recently in E6 about the church's vision and mission statements. This is an opportunity to point out how things are connected.
  - Paul and Silas baptize their prison guard: Acts 16:31-33
    - This encounter that states "...and immediately he and all his family were baptized." Is another support for children being baptized. It is believed that when Scripture mentions a family or household being baptized, that the reference includes the children.
  - Paul at Ephesus: Acts 19:3-5
    - This encounter shows that there was a difference between the baptisms John had performed and the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Student Question #5** Which article of faith describes Holy Baptism? What is the content of that article?

- The 6<sup>th</sup> article of faith states:  
 I believe that the Holy Baptism with water is the first step to a renewal of a human being in the Holy Spirit, and that the person baptized is adopted into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

#### Embrace the promise of Christ's return

- This discussion is included in this semester because the sacrament of Holy Baptism removes the remoteness from God and helps us on our journey as we prepare for the return of Christ.

#### Additional videos

- If time permits, consider showing and discussing one of the For Your Journey episodes listed on the front of the facilitator guide.

#### Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day they will make, or have already made (if they have been Confirmed), a vow to renounce evil and be faithful to God.

#### I wonder...

- What is original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

#### I believe...

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- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)

#### Point to Ponder...

- What does it mean to you to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

#### A Call to Action...

- Memorize the 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith

### Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

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What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

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So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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### Point to Ponder...

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### Call to Action...

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## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Baptism*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is original sin?</li> <li>➤ What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 482)</li> <li>➤ Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 481)</li> </ul>
Bible: Genesis 3, Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20, Acts 16:31-33, 19:3-5 Catechism Q&A questions: 229, 472, 481-493 Article of Faith 6	

### 1. What is sin?

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### 2. What is original sin?

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### 3. What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

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### 4. What Biblical support is there for being baptized? Isn't faith in Jesus enough?

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### 5. Which article of faith describes Holy Baptism? What is the content of that article?

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**Point to Ponder:** What does it mean to you to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

**Call to Action:** Memorize the 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith