



Understanding Salvation, Baptism, and Communion

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3: 21—22

Salvation: Do you believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

As a class/family look up and read Luke 3:21-22.

Discussion: Have you ever broken a bone before? (Tell the story about how you broke it and what recovery was like.) Did you have X-rays taken? What does an X-ray show us a picture of? Is an X-ray a picture of the inside or outside of our body?

Salvation is like an X-ray; it's something that happens *inside* of us—in our hearts! Salvation means: the deliverance/freedom from sin. We know that Jesus was born on earth, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for our sins so we could live eternally with God in heaven.

To have salvation, there are three ABC's (main things):

1. Admit that you're a sinner.

Look up and read Romans 3:23. This verse tells us that ALL (people) have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We all have sinned! The only one who has walked this earth that never sinned is Jesus.

2. Believe that Jesus is God's Son.

Read John 3:16 and John 14:6 together. This verse tells us that no one can come to the Father/God except through knowing Jesus.

3. Confess that Jesus is Lord.

Read Romans 10:9-10 together. These verses tell us that if we declare (proclaim/say) with our mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we will be saved. It's in our hearts that we believe and with our mouths that we profess our faith.

Class/Family Review Time

Parents: Discuss these questions with your child(ren).

1. What is sin? (Things we do wrong.)
2. Have you ever sinned? (Be careful with this one. Refer to Romans 3:23. ALL have sinned. Sometimes kids think we've teamed up to make them confess something to their parents.)
3. What is the problem with sin? (It separates us from God.)
4. Who is Jesus? (God's Son.)
5. What did Jesus do for us? (He died on a cross to pay for our sin; made a way for us to be right with God.)
6. What happens when you believe and trust in Jesus? (Our sins are forgiven, we receive eternal life, and will live with God forever.)
7. Do you trust Jesus with your whole life and believe that He died for you?

Parents: If your child(ren) have, great! They're ready for the next step. If they have not, but you think they understand the ABC's and want to make Jesus Lord of their life, you can pray together right now.

Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I have done things that are wrong and my sin should separate me from You forever. I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He died for my sin. I accept His death as payment for my sin and confess that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. Thank you for loving me and giving me the gift of salvation and eternal life with You forever. Jesus, come into my life and help me follow You all the days of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

REMEMBER: *You are not saved by saying a prayer; you are saved by putting your faith in Christ as your Savior. Prayer is simply a way of expressing your trust in Christ for all He has done.*

Baptism: What Does it Mean to be a Follower of Christ?

God's Team

Ever worn a jersey before? Maybe it was for your own sports team, or perhaps it was supporting one of your favorite teams? Remember we just talked about how an x-ray is something we use to see *inside* our bodies. When you wear a jersey, it's something you wear on the *outside* because it's a way to tell others you are part of the team, or support the team.

Baptism is like wearing a jersey; it's a way to show others you are on God's team—a follower of Jesus! Baptism is a symbol of the death and burial (under the water) and resurrection (up out of the water) of Jesus.

If needed, read again: Luke 3:21-22.

Discussion:

1. Why should you get baptized? (because Jesus did and He told us to)
2. What does it show everyone? (that I'm on Jesus' team; that I've decided to follow Jesus)
3. What does going under the water and coming back up represent? (Jesus death, burial, and resurrection, and that I choose to leave my old life for a new one.)
4. Have you ever been to a baptism? What did you see? Think?
5. Have members of your family been baptized? Ask them to tell their story (testimony) to you.

Just how when Jesus was baptized it marked the beginning of his ministry, so may it be like for you! Being baptized is a wonderful step in your faith journey. However, it's meant to be the first step of many that are to come. It's going to be great to see how God uses you to love his people and show others who He is!

Communion: Remember Me

The Last Supper

The last meal that Jesus shared with His disciples happened the night before He died on the cross.

Read Matthew 26:26-28

If our baptism is a way to publicly declare that we are a Christian—a follower of Christ—then taking communion is a personal way to declare that we are a Christian.

There are two elements (items) that we use when we have communion—juice/wine and bread. We do this because this is what Jesus used with His disciples. The bread represents Jesus' body that was broken. The juice/wine represents Jesus' blood that was shed for us.

Discussion:

1. *Have you ever had communion before?*
2. *Have people in your family had communion before? If so, ask them to tell you about the first time they took communion.*
3. *Do you have any questions about what it's like? Ask them now.*

Communion is a time that's spent between you and God. During this time you are remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus; that he lived, died, and rose again for YOU! We eat and drink as a way of accepting that Jesus died for us and has given us new life in Him. Be thankful! And enjoy this moment between you and Jesus.

My Story

Being a follower of Christ is a journey. It's good to reflect on where you are going and where you have been. To do that, consider the following. Together with your parents, write your responses to the questions below.

1. What does it mean to you when you say "I am a Christian"?
2. Who in your life has helped show you what it means to be a Christian? (You can also take this time to thank them.)
3. What do you think is next for you as you grow in faith?

A Note From Mrs. Pam

Your relationship with Christ is the most important thing in life. It's more important than any other relationship you have/will have. I'm so glad you've taken the steps to ask questions, read scripture, and explore what following Jesus is all about! Know that although this relationship is the most important, relationship, it doesn't make it always easy. You will continue to have questions and dig into the Bible for answers the rest of your life.

If I can offer you any advice it would be this: Above all the questions and hard times you may face on your faith journey, one thing will ALWAYS remain the same: GOD LOVES YOU!

Keep praying, keep reading your Bible, and keep showing the world you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

God loves you and so do I,

Mrs. Pam Cherubino

