Baptism Lesson Plan #1

Objectives:
- Children will know that Baptism is the first sacrament we receive. It is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. We call Baptism a Sacrament of Initiation because we are being introduced to our faith. (C. 251, Y. 193)
- Children will be able to tell that at Baptism we become members of God’s family. This means that we become forever a child of God and a part of our Church family. (Y. 194, C. 263)
- Children will understand that God knows them and loves them uniquely and wants them to be a member of God’s family forever. (C. 264, Y 201)
- Children will be able to state that at Baptism, we first receive the Holy Spirit. (Y. 200, C. 263)

Discussion Points/Procedure:
- Ask children to share when and what they like about celebrating their birthdays. Tell them they also have a birthday in the Church. Our birthday in the Church is the day of our Baptism.
- Activate children’s prior knowledge by asking children to share what they already know about Baptism. Writing this down to have a visual can be very helpful and help children place importance on their words.
- Remind them that Baptism is the first of seven sacraments that were given to us by Jesus Christ. It is the first sacrament because we are invited to join God’s family at this time.
- Discuss that at their Baptism, you (their parents) said yes to God for their children because God already has such a great love for us and parents want their children to experience God’s love from the time they are very young. This makes them part of God’s family forever. (Y. 197)
- Explain that one of the things that happens in baptism is that we receive a name. To be baptized by a name shows that God knows us individually and loves each and every one of us. He says “yes” to each and every one of us and wants us as part of His family forever.

Additional Resources/Activities:
- Share pictures/videos of your children’s Baptisms with them. Who was there? How did you celebrate?
- www.bustedhalo.com is a website that has videos for young adults explaining baptism.
- www.fisheaters.com/baptism2 is an explanation of the process of Baptism. Good reference.
- Write the dates of children’s baptisms on your home calendar. Celebrate by renewing Baptismal promises on that day.
- Discuss your children’s names. Share the reasons for choosing their names and how their Christian name is used in the Sacrament of Baptism. It is tradition in the Catholic
faith to give children the name of a saint or one related to a saint. If this is the case, research the saint associated with your child’s name. Explain that having a patron saint means they always have someone special to pray to, who is a friend of God. [www.catholic-forum.com/saints](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints) ; [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

- Have children write their names in big letters or bubble letters on a piece of poster board and decorate in a unique way, using different materials. A good starting point visual: [www.craft-craft.net](http://www.craft-craft.net) or [www.makesandtakes.com](http://www.makesandtakes.com)

- Printable coloring pages for Baptism can be found at [www.roman-catholic-catechism.com](http://www.roman-catholic-catechism.com) There are two choices.

- Share the story of Jesus’ Baptism by John. In scripture, it can be found in Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

- [www.catholicblogger1.blogspot.com](http://www.catholicblogger1.blogspot.com) has a post dated 9/5/2010 and titled A to Z Bible Story lesson-Letter B that has a lesson with resources for Jesus’ baptism.
Baptism Lesson Plan #2

Objectives:
● Children will know and explain the signs and symbols used during Baptism that remind us that we are starting a new life in God’s family. The symbols of Baptism are water, oil, a white garment, and a Baptismal candle. (C. 252, 256; Y. 195,198)
● Children will know the words the bishop, priest or deacon says as the Sacrament of Baptism occurs: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” (C. 260, Y. 198)

Discussion Points/Procedure:
● Review lesson #1: In Baptism we are joined with God’s family, the Church.
● Ask children if they know or can tell any of the signs/symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism after learning about Baptism in lesson #1.
● Ask children to name different ways people use water in our lives. You could have the children draw pictures of how we use water every day or have older children generate a list.
● Explain that water is necessary for life. Refer to the children’s pictures/writing and discuss ways water helps us to live. It helps us and all of God’s creation to grow. It also washes things clean.
● Tell children water is one of the most important signs used during Baptism. Water symbolizes that we are starting a new life in God’s family and washes away original sin that every person has when they are born.
● Tell children that there are four symbols/signs used during Baptism that they should recognize: water, holy oil, baptismal candle, and a white garment.
   ○ water- symbol of cleansing and new life. Water washes away original sin and gives new life in God’s family.
   ○ baptismal candle- Jesus tells us that He is the “Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) The baptismal candle is a symbol to keep the light of Jesus burning brightly in our lives.
   ○ white garment- At Baptism, the Church gives the candidate a white garment to symbolize their new life as a member of the Church community. The garment is white like Jesus’ light and life. It is a “putting on of Christ”.
   ○ oil- Oil is used twice during the baptismal ceremony. It is used as a symbol of strength and that we are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Additional ideas/resources:
● Watch video of children’s baptism and find the symbols in the video together.
● Using pictures of children’s Baptism show the water being poured on their heads at their own Baptism. Explain that the priest or deacon pours water on our head three times during Baptism and says the words, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
Read the story of Adam and Eve. Discuss how Adam and Eve turned away from God (original sin). God promised to send a Savior (Jesus Christ) who would save us. He is the Light of the World. Make a candle out of white and yellow construction paper and an empty paper towel tube. Write the words “The Light of the World”. There are directions to make more realistic-type candles here: www.spoonful.com/crafts/cardboard-candlesticks

If you have children’s actual baptismal candle, white garment, etc., then share with children. These are all signs of a new life as a child of God.

Baptism mobile: www.sadlierreligion.com We Believe: grade 1 Chapter 17 printable activities

www.books.google.com Heavenly doves Soap on a Rope doves to symbolize how our sins are washed away at Baptism.
Baptism Lesson Plan #3

Objectives:

- Children will understand that at Baptism, parents make a promise for us to live as a child of God. It is now each child’s job to live the faith and show others God’s love. (Y. 197, 200; C. 258, 259).
- Children will know that if you do not get Baptized as an infant, any person can chose to be baptized at any time, as long as they have faith in God. (Y. 196. C. 257, 259)
- Children will be able to recall the signs/symbols of Baptism that remind us that as children of God, we are called to be lights in the world. We need to live our Baptism. (C. 263, Y 194,195, 197)
- Children will listen to and discuss the promises made at Baptism.

Discussion Points/Procedure:

- Explain that many children are baptized as babies because their parents know that God already loves us and they want their children to grow up knowing God’s love. They made a promise to God for the child that he/she would learn their faith while living with God’s grace.
- Discuss people who were present at children’s Baptisms. Introduce the term “Godparents”.
- Do they know who their Godparents are? Do they know why they have Godparents? Discuss the role of Godparents. (C. 259)
- Share that the parents/godparents of a baby being baptized are given a candle as a reminder that as a member of God’s family, we are called to live our Baptism, to be lights in the world, teaching others about our faith.
- Read the baptismal promises made at the Sacrament of Baptism and anytime we renew our baptismal promises. Discuss what they mean in their lives today. tell children it is now their job to say Yes to their baptismal promises that their parents made for them.
- Have children brainstorm ways we can “live out our Baptism”. Discuss ways which we do this every day and ways we could commit to this even more. How do people know you are a child of God? How can we teach others about the greatness of God’s love?
- Generate a list of things they can do, or currently do, daily and post this as a reminder for children to live as children of God.

Additional Ideas/Resources:

- Make a poster with a simple prayer to help your family remember to be a light in the world. one idea would be “Lord, let me be a light for you in the world”. Have children decorate appropriately.
- Set up a small prayer table with reminders of our Baptism. Use this as a special place for children to go when they want to pray just need to be quiet.
• Make a “bucket list” of specific objectives they would like to do that would teach others about the greatness of God’s love. It could be something you choose to do as a family or something simple they, personally, want to work on, like using their manners.
• Write a letter of thanks to their godparents for their contributions in teaching the child about their faith and how to live as a child of God.
• Make a poster/collage of their Baptism with the date of their Baptism to hang in their bedrooms or somewhere to remind them to live their faith.
• Celebrate the day of their Baptism with a card/cake in the tradition of birthdays as a reminder of our new life in God’s family.