



Photo by [Joshua Eckstein](#) on [Unsplash](#)

BAPTISM

Family Study Guide

Introduction

Why study baptism? It seems like a long-past event for most Christians. Within God's Word and for Christians throughout the last two thousand years, baptism has held a special place. It's what the Church has called a "Means of Grace." In other words, it is like a dump truck that delivers God's blessings again and again. That's why we dig into it. Because the blessings it delivers began a long time ago, for some, but have kept delivering every day since then.

Through this course, you will:

- *Review our natural state as humans and why we need God's forgiveness*
- *Understand Baptism is and how it ties us to Jesus' death and resurrection*
- *Explore who should be baptized*
- *Learn where Baptism gets its power*
- *Memorize passages that explain baptism*
- *Explore the impact of your baptism today*

What you'll need

1. A catechism (you'll find page references that correspond with the dark blue catechism published in 2017)
2. Luther's Large Catechism. This one's for you, parents. Read the section on Baptism and be better prepared to answer questions and discuss more deeply the truths of baptism.
3. Bible. Throughout this module, your family will be encouraged toward family readings and devotions on stories and sections of Scripture that help round out the picture of baptism. These devotions will be critical to helping your family understand Baptism the way that the early Christians understood it.

Part 1: Laying the Ground Word

Baptism isn't given and isn't practiced in a vacuum. Let's better understand the story around baptism.

Read Psalm 51:5-12 and Isaiah 1:18.

What did you read and hear?

When did you (or anybody) first become sinful?

What does God use to “wash” us?

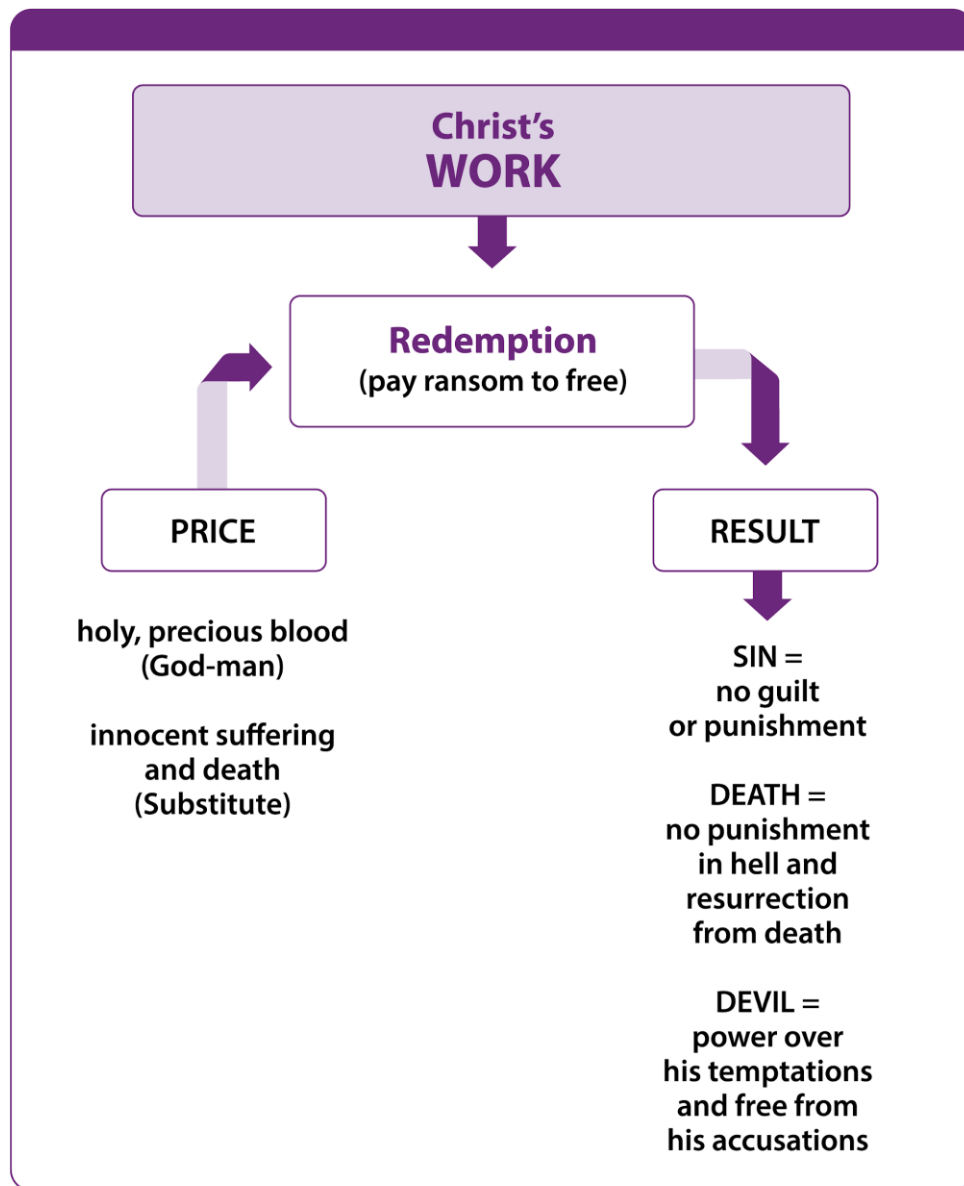
What are some ways that a believer in Jesus can display that they are “white as snow”?

Agree/Disagree: It is helpful for me to think of sin as making us “dirty” and God making us “clean.”

Optional: If you are able, search YouTube for “The Prince’s Poison Cup by R.C. Sproul.” Watch the 12-13 minute video and share each person’s takeaway.

Christ's Work

Take a look at the image here. You'll also find it on page 168 of your catechism. What stands out to you?

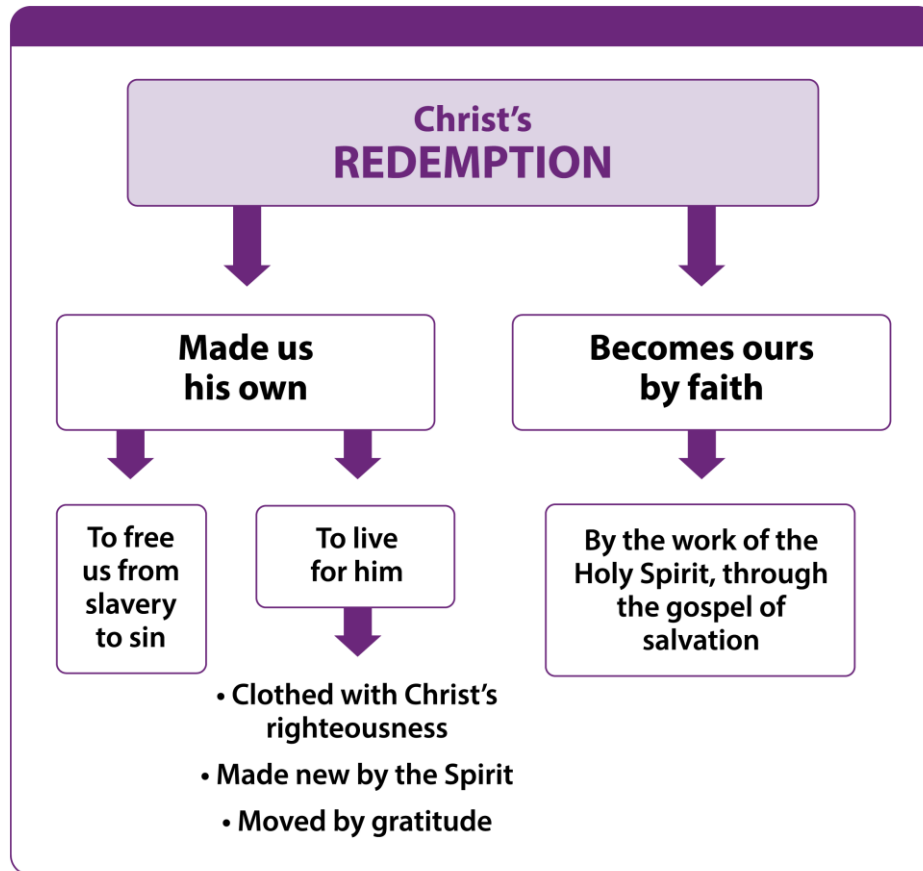


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Discuss: Jesus paid a very high price so that I might be redeemed. What does that mean for my everyday life?

Christ's Redemption

Look at the following image. We took a look at the imagery the Bible uses around dirty/clean. Discuss as a family the imagery outlined here of slave/free. What does it mean that Jesus has made you his own so that you would be free?



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Memory Treasure - 1 Peter 3:21:

And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Family Discussion

As a family, discuss this statement: "My baptism is the most important day of my life."

Memory Treasure - Titus 3:5-7

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Part 2: Baptism's Institution

Where did baptism come from? Who started it?

Through this part, you will:

- *understand who started baptism*
- *be able to explain what baptism is*
- *know who should be baptized*

Questions to ponder:

Has baptism always been around?

Does Jesus want everyone to be baptized?

Would anyone ever be excluded from baptism?

What is baptism?

Read through the box on the top of pg. 304. Read through it several times together. Discuss what stands out to you?

Family Devotion

This will be an assignment that you'll do in the background of the lessons. You don't need to read it all at once, feel free to spread it out over a week or two. But read **Genesis 17** and **Colossians 2** together. Read each section a couple of times. See what you notice upon reading it a second time (you'll surprise yourself).

What new applications do you find as you reread?

What is Baptism? (continued)

Read question 302 in your catechism. Discuss and write down the definition of "baptize."

Baptize =

Agree or disagree: For baptism to be effective, you need to use special water. (In order to help you answer this question, read the box on the top of page 305.)

Memory Treasure - Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Apply: Jesus commands that all nations be baptized. As a family, make a list of people who should be baptized. That list is started for you below. Once you’ve made a list, what would it say if one of those kinds of people were left off the list? (In other words, if you were to say “men shouldn’t be baptized)

__Men__	_____	_____
__Women__	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Optional: Search YouTube for “Should we baptize Infants” by The Gospel Coalition. Watch the video

Note: "Paedo-Baptism" = Infant baptism

As you watch this video, you'll see a Presbyterian speaker and a Baptist speaker. Take notes as you watch the video. What are the main points for each side?

What about adults?

Read questions 306 & 307 in your catechism. As a family, make a list of the blessings a person receives when they are baptized as adults.

My Baptism

Read "A Closer Look" on pg. 308 of your catechism. Reach out to your sponsors/witnesses to ask them to tell the story about the day you were baptized. (You may ask your parent(s) if you don't have a sponsor or witness)

Take some time to find your baptismal certificate. How old were you when you were baptized? (Consider framing and hanging it in your room)

Part 3: Baptism's Blessings

What does baptism do? Why do we practice it?

Through this course, you will learn:

- *What God promises to do in baptism*
- *Why baptism continues to be a blessing in your faith*
- *How to continue to be thankful for your baptism every day*
- *How to live in those blessings every day*

What blessings come through Baptism?

Read through the box on the top of [pg. 311](#) in your catechism. As a family talk about the four blessings listed there. Which one are you most thankful for and why?

Family Devotions

Families,

This will be an assignment that you'll do in the background of the lessons. You don't need to read it all at once, feel free to spread it out over a week or two. Read **Romans 6** together. Since this is a shorter reading, read it several times in a week. See what you notice upon reading it a second time (you'll surprise yourself). What new applications do you find as you read?

Catechism Question

As a family, read question #308. Which is your favorite passage that talks about the blessings of baptism. Why do you like that one? What can you do as a family to make sure you never forget that passage?

Singing about Baptism

The following poem is written by Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756) called, "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It." Read through the poem together and highlight the lines that most stick out to you.

Stanza 1

God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!

Stanza 2

Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood!

Stanza 3

Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.

Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!

Stanza 4

Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

Stanza 5

There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Drawn Up

Take a look at the graphic on pg. 312 in your catechism. Share some thoughts with your family about what it means to be a “child of God.”

Memory Treasure - Romans 6:3-5

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Write it Out

As a family, read Titus 3:5-7. Each member of the family should write a paragraph that starts with, "My baptism comforts me because..." When these are completed, share your paragraphs with your family.

Part 4 - Baptism's Power

Where does water get the power to do such incredible things? Let's dig in.

Through this course, you will learn:

- *What a sacrament is*
- *What methods the Holy Spirit chooses to use to strengthen/create faith*
- *Gratitude for the sure promises of God in baptism*

Where does Baptism get its power?

Read through the box on the top of [pg. 315](#) in your catechism. As a family discuss the following statement: A person who has not been baptized will be saved.

Family Devotions

Families,

This will be an assignment that you'll do in the background of the lessons. You don't need to read it all at once-feel free to spread it out over a week or two. Read 2 Kings 5 together. Since this is a shorter reading, read it several times in a week. See what you notice upon reading it a second time (you'll surprise yourself). What new applications do you find as you read? Was it the water in the Jordan River that had the power to cleanse Naaman?

Optional: Search youtube for "The Jordan River - 4k." Click on the video made by ANBSC. Play this two-minute video of views from the Jordan River. Feel free to let the music play or silence it. Make the video full screen and as you look at the Jordan River, read out loud as a family Mark 1:1-15. Discuss as a family what surprised you as you read that section of Mark and watched the video?

Memory Treasure - Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Drawn Up

Take a look at the graphic on pg. 317 in your catechism. As a family, discuss why it's a comfort that baptism works because the Holy Spirit works through it. (In other words, why is it a good thing that baptism doesn't work because we use the right water or have the right person doing the baptism?)

Optional: Find your favorite baptism hymn/song/video. Share it with your family.

Part 5 - Baptism's meaning for daily life

Baptism was a long time ago. What does it mean for you today?

Through this part, you will learn:

- *What to do with the reality of your baptism*
- *How to keep your baptism in your mind*

What does Baptism mean for you today?

Read through the box on the top of pg. 320 in your catechism. As a family, discuss some of the values and priorities that come about because you are a “baptized child of God.”

Memory Treasure - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Drawn Up

Take a look at the graphic on pg. 323 in your catechism. As a family, discuss the easiest and the hardest of the meanings listed there.

Family Wrap Up

As a family, list the top three things, truths, passages you want to remember after studying baptism.