



Central Kids

Summer Field Guide

Week of August 2nd

Over the next several weeks we are encouraging families to use this Field Guide to interact with your kids on Sunday morning or mid-week to learn catechism, a *collection of biblical truths in a question and answer format*. We will be using The New City Catechism curriculum to help construct a fun and creative way for your kids to memorize doctrine. Check out <http://newcitycatechism.com/videos> to learn more. These Field Guides are designed for family worship or devotional time. However, they can be used individually for older children.

HOW CATECHISM WORKS: Read the question and answer with your child and repeat. Then ask your child the question and have them give the catechism answer. The Field Guide offers additional activities to make learning fun and to help your children memorize God's Word.

MEMORIZATION TIPS: The key to memorizing is repetition. Be creative: turn it into a song, write it down, cut out the words and place them in order, use funny voices, or make up actions.

FAMILY WORSHIP: We're Alive (Ephesians 2:4-5) by Seeds Family Worship. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7c-HWz2G6o>

Catechism Question #44

QUESTION: What is Baptism?

ANSWER: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: Wedding Ring

Show the children a wedding ring and ask them what a wedding ring is a sign of. A wedding ring is a visible sign of promises made when someone is married. Place the wedding ring on the finger of one of the children. Ask them if simply putting a ring on someone's finger makes him or her married. Of course it doesn't, because a ring is only a sign of what happens in the marriage ceremony. It's not the ring that makes someone married. Introduce the children to questions 44: "What is baptism?" Explain to the children that this lesson will help them to think about the sacrament of baptism. Highlight for the children that baptism is one of the ordinances that Jesus instituted in his church. Explain that just like the wedding ring, baptism is a sign of something promised. It doesn't actually save someone; but it is still an important outward sign of new birth cleansing inside a person's heart.

Activity: Symbols

Cut out the illustrations on the attached sheet. Pass around the pictures and ask the children if they can identify what they mean. The pictures are all signs that reveal something about the owner of the sign (badge, medal etc.). Invite the children to describe what each sign communicates about the owner. Point out that a police badge doesn't make someone a police officer. But it does symbolize that the person wearing it has spent a long time training and testing to become a police offer. Or putting on a flammable sticker is not what makes something catch fire easily, but it does show everyone who looks at the container that what is inside it can catch fire easy. Likewise, baptism is a sign that someone is a Christian; that they have faith in the work and power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to save us.

Watch

Watch together one of Central's baptism videos.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/155697234442873/823072721087764>

Spend some time discussing the video. Ask your kids questions about what this shows, and why they think baptism is important. Remind kids that baptism is an outward sign of an already existing inward reality of salvation.

Catechism Question #45

QUESTION: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

ANSWER: No, only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin.

Activity: Word Association Game

The rules of the game are that the children must say a word that is directly related to the previous word and that there can be no repeats or hesitations. If there is a repeat or hesitation, the child must sit down and another one takes his or her place. The game can carry on for as long as time allows. Invite two children up to play the game. Give one of the children a word to start. Some words to use are: Baptism, Water, Jesus, Sin, Forgiveness, Washed, Sign. Hopefully the game will bring out lots of words related to baptism and help the children remember what they've learned.

Activity: Skit

Invite the children to make up a short skit that could be shown to others to help them understand the meaning of baptism. Give them different prompts such as:

- Having a discussion at the lunch table at school about baptism with a kid who's never heard it before
- Someone becomes a Christian on her death bed and asks about baptism.
- A conversation with someone who thinks he needs to be baptized again every time he commits a sin.

Ask them to perform the skit, repeat as time and engagement allows.

Memory Activity: Puzzle

Give each kid a sheet of paper and markers. Ask them to write down the question and answer on the paper, then to decorate it with symbols and pictures that relate to the question. When they're finished, give them scissors and ask them to cut the paper into around a dozen pictures and to trade the pieces with another child. Once traded, ask the kids to try to reassemble the question and read it out loud as soon as they've finished. If time allows, repeat with the other question. Younger children may need help writing out cutting out the pieces.

Prayer

Pray together as a family with gratitude for the sacrament of baptism and the beautiful sign that it is of God's forgiveness and rescue, bringing people from death to life.

Discussion - Sometimes you or your child may have additional questions. Here are some possible questions that may come up:

If someone is a Christian, but isn't baptized, would he or she go to heaven after death? Yes! Explain to children that baptism does not save, but is a sign of salvation. Every Christian should seek to be baptized, but if something prevents the outward sign, it doesn't take away from the inner reality.

Why do people need to be baptized then? Explain to the children that the most important reason is because Jesus commanded that his disciples should be baptized. It also, just like a wedding ring or police badge, shows everyone around you that you believe that you have been saved through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.





STORY POINT: JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS.

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Jesus' Baptism
Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1