

# Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2023

## Class Curriculum - The Way of Salvation

Age - Junior Campers

## Friday - Baptism & Righteous Living

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### Summary

1. Subject: Repentance
2. Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:5
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Understand the definition of baptism, and its necessity to our salvation
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

**Prayer:** Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

### Story

10-15 minutes

If you would like to use a character study from scripture to begin class, an example is provided below. If this story is already integrated into your week of camp, feel free to use a different narrative from scripture that examines repentance.

#### The Philippian Jailer

The Philippian jailer is one of many examples in scripture of someone being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. Using Acts 16:25-34, teach your class the story of the Philippian jailer. A brief summary is listed below: please read the full account yourself and teach the story at an age-appropriate level to your class.

- Paul and Silas were put into prison for preaching about Jesus
- A jailer's job was to make sure prisoners didn't escape

- There was an earthquake, and the door to every cell was opened
- Instead of leaving, Paul and Silas stayed in the prison, along with every other prisoner
- This was so unusual that the jailer immediately believed in the gospel that Paul and Silas had been preaching
- He asks “What must I do to be saved?” and is told to believe in the Lord Jesus
- He is then immediately baptized

This story highlights the connection between baptism and salvation, as well as the sense of urgency associated with baptism: as soon as the jailer believed in Jesus, he was immediately baptized.

## Lesson

### Discussion: What is baptism?

10-15 Minutes

**Guided Discussion:** Ask the question, “What is baptism?” or “What does it mean to be baptized?” Make sure they understand the literal definition of baptism: “immersion”. Usually, we think of baptism as a ritual where our sins are washed away. While this is true, it is important to know that it did not start as a special, spiritual word; instead, it simply refers to being submerged in water.

To help your campers understand the nature and importance of baptism, ask questions like the following:

- If baptism means “immersed”, how should we be baptized today? Do you think it would be okay to be “sprinkled” instead of “immersed”? If we are trying to follow God’s commandments closely, how should we be baptized?
- Why do you think the Philippian Jailer was baptized that night? Why didn’t he wait until the next day?

A wedding is a good illustration to help understand baptism. A wedding is a key part of a marriage. It is the official ceremony that marks the commitment a couple is making to one another. During the wedding ceremony, they are spiritually/legally wed. Similarly, baptism is a key part of salvation. It is the official ceremony where our sins are washed away and we enter into a covenant relationship with God. It marks the commitment we are making to Him for the rest of our lives.

## Scripture

- a. Acts 3:19
  - a. This verse is straightforward. Repentance of our sins is part of the process that “blots out” our sins. It is a necessary part of our spiritual lives.
- b. Acts 17:30
  - a. This verse is important in our understanding of repentance. God has called all people to repent. This includes you and me. Your campers may be too young to have a need of repentance, but this verse can help them understand the eventual need they will have.

## Activity/Illustration

### Remaining Time

#### “Glitter Hands”

Have each camper dampen their hands in a tub of water, then give them a handful of glitter. Have them rub the glitter over their hands, and then one-by-one attempt to rub the glitter off with just their hands. After attempting to rub it off, allow them to wash their hands in the tub of water. Some campers will remove most of the glitter quickly, for others it may take some more time. For each camper, some remnants of glitter are likely to stay on their hands regardless of how well-washed they are.

Application: this game shows us how difficult it can be to clean ourselves. Before dunking our hands in the water, it is nearly impossible to get the glitter off (especially when our other hand is also covered in glitter!). After using the water, we still can't clean it off ourselves entirely. We are lucky that it's not our job to wash away our sins; God does that for us when we are baptised!

#### “Simon Says”

Have all your campers stand in a line. Select one person to be “Simon” (to begin with, a teacher should be “Simon”). Proceed to give your campers all sorts of commands (i.e. put your hand on your head/shoulders/hips/knees, jump up and down, give a compliment to the person next to you, etc). Campers should follow every direction that is preceded by, “Simon says”. If they do not follow an instruction that “Simon said”, they lose. If they follow an instruction that was given without the words, “Simon says...” they lose. The last camper remaining wins and can choose to be Simon for the next round.

Application: this game is an exercise in following rules, and is an example of righteous living. As we look to our future as Christians, we need to be diligent in listening to God's commands and following them fully. We cannot allow ourselves to ignore God's commands, or follow commands not given by God.