

# Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2023

## Class Curriculum - The Way of Salvation

Age - Senior Campers

## Friday - Baptism & Righteous Living

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### Summary

1. Subject: Baptism & Righteous Living
2. Scripture: Romans 6:1-14, Matthew 28:19-20, John 3:5
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Understand that baptism is a fundamental component of salvation. It is not the only requirement; however, it is the sign of the new covenant and the moment our sins are initially washed away.
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.

### Lesson

Overview: Baptism is a key component of our salvation. Scripture describes it as the seal of the covenant we have with Jesus and the moment that our sins are cleansed. Other components of salvation are equally necessary; however, there is an attack on baptism in the world today. A genuine understanding of what scripture teaches concerning baptism leads to the conclusion that it is necessary and salvational. It is the beginning of a lifelong commitment to God.

Read: 25 Minutes

The following section provides a brief commentary of the passage, as well as some reading comprehension questions.

## Romans 6:1-13

### **Romans 6:1-4**

In the first portion of this reading, the significance and symbolism of baptism are made clear. The act of being immersed in water is meant to replicate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected; we die to our old lives, are buried in the waters of baptism, and are resurrected from the waters into new life.

### **Romans 6:5-14**

These verses continue explaining the importance of baptism. Knowing that it is an attempt to mimic the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, we read about the spiritual implications of being baptized. Just as Christ was crucified, our former sinful selves must also die. Just as Christ was raised from the dead into eternal life, we too are gracefully given the gift of eternal life upon our baptism.

### Reading Comprehension:

- To be given the gift of eternal life, we are supposed to mimic Christ. What aspects of Christ's life are mimicked in baptism?
- What is the connection between repentance and baptism?
- Is it possible to be baptized if you have not repented?
- We are not perfect people, and it is natural to sin after repenting and being baptized. How should we respond when we sin after being baptized? (talk about continual repentance, the difference between *committing* to holiness vs. achieving perfection, and how occasional sin is unavoidable but intentional/habitual sin after baptism is improper)

## Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:5

Overview: There is an attack on baptism by the world. Even those who call themselves Christians widely discredit the necessity of baptism to salvation. While there are other necessary components of faith (i.e. repentance, righteous living, etc), an accurate reading of scripture leads to the conclusion that baptism is undeniably essential to salvation. Christians of all ages need to know this to defend part of the Gospel message that is under attack by the world.

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

In this passage, we read about Jesus giving the "Great Commission". As Jesus is

summarizing the Gospel call, he gives three basic commands as his apostles go into the world to spread the message of the Gospel: make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey. In short, Jesus summarizes the entire gospel message into these three points: we are to become disciples (develop a faith in Jesus), become baptized, and obey the commandments of Jesus found in scripture.

In the previous reading, it is undeniable that baptism is important. In this short verse, we read that baptism is essential. In this passage, Jesus is speaking to a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Jesus is saying many things that are not understood at the moment. While their conversation is largely about the nature of Jesus, that He is the Son of God, it begins with a very straightforward statement: unless someone is born again of water (baptism) it is impossible to enter the kingdom of God.

### **John 3:5**


## **DISCUSSION**

Use the following metaphor to discuss the nature and importance of baptism as it pertains to salvation.

It can be easy to understand the nature and importance of baptism when comparing it to marriage. In fact, scripture uses marriage as a parallel to understand the nature of the relationship between Jesus and the Church. It can be used similarly to understand baptism and salvation.

A wedding ceremony is crucial to a marriage. The typical process of a couple getting married looks like this: there is a pre-existing relationship where each partner makes a commitment to be with one another, then there is a wedding ceremony that legally/spiritually binds the couple in marriage, and finally, there are many subsequent lifestyle changes as they begin life as a married couple. Every part of this process is important, and the whole would be diminished if any of these steps were skipped. A marriage with no pre-existing relationship may not be doomed to fail, but it will be difficult. A marriage without subsequent lifestyle changes is unheard of (imagine a married couple continuing to live apart, continuing to date other people, or otherwise acting as though they were never married). And a couple that skips the wedding ceremony will not be legally married, even if they proceed to live together and act as though they are husband and wife.

Similarly, the process of entering a committed, covenant relationship with Jesus Christ consists of the same steps. There is a pre-existing relationship (for God, this goes back to the beginning of



time; for us, it goes back to when we first heard and believed in Him). There is an official ceremony where we enter into the covenant, which is baptism. Then many lifestyle changes reflect our newly committed lives.

Baptism is the ritual ceremony of entering into a covenant relationship with Christ, where our sins are washed away and we are pledging ourselves to live faithfully for Jesus. It is a crucial, irreplaceable part of salvation. It is the beginning of the rest of our lives.