

# HOLY BAPTISM WITH WATER

Matthew 28:19–20



# Contents

Message	Through Holy Baptism with water, we become closer to God.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The significance of Holy Baptism with water and how it is dispensed.</li><li>■ After they are baptised, they receive the name "Christian".</li></ul>
Bible Text	Matthew 28:19-20

## Holy Baptism with Water



In the night, God sent Apostle Paul a vision. He saw a man from Greece pleading with him to come to Greece. Apostle Paul and his friends travelled by boat to the city of Philippi in Greece.

Apostle Paul preached at the river where the Jews gathered to pray. Amongst the people was a woman, named Lydia. She was a successful business woman. Lydia was a seller of purple, a very expensive red dye that was used to dye the garments of royalty. She was not Jewish but she worshiped God.

As she listened to Apostle Paul speak, God opened her heart to hear all that he had to say. Afterwards, Lydia and her entire household were baptised (Acts 16:9-15).

Christian Baptism was instituted after Christ's resurrection (The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20).

In the New Testament, entire households were baptised together (Acts 16:33; cf. also 16:15). It is from this example that the Christian tradition of baptising children has developed.

In the New Apostolic Church, Holy Baptism with water is dispensed by priestly ministers who are commissioned by the Apostles and with water consecrated in the name of the triune God.

The minister uses the consecrated water to make the sign of the cross three times on the forehead of the person being baptised. While doing this, the minister says, "I baptise you in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Holy Baptism with water ends one's life of remoteness from God and marks the beginning of a life in Christ.

When an adult is baptised, they profess their faith and promise to align their lives with the will of God. When children are baptised, the parents or persons responsible for the religious upbringing of the children profess their faith on behalf of the children, and vow to raise the baptised child in accordance with the gospel. Teachers, and above all parents, instruct the children in putting this into practice in their life of faith.

Those who are baptised are entitled to partake in Holy Communion in the New Apostolic Church. Through Holy Baptism with water, an important change in the relationship between a human being and God occurs. We draw closer to God and become and become Christian. Holy Baptism performed in the name of the Trinity unites all Christians.

### Suggestions for the Teacher

#### Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the Holy Baptism in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise of minister, a baby-doll, an altar, chalice with water...

#### Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- When was the Christian baptism instituted? (After Jesus' resurrection)
- Who was baptised in Lydia's household? (Parents and children. Likewise, we do it today.)
- What is different about someone after she/he is baptised?  
(Holy Baptism with water changes a person's relationship with God.)
- What does this mean?  
(We are closer to Him and become a Christian, a part of the church of Christ. He makes a covenant with us. Holy Baptism is one of the many things that unites all Christians.)
- What is a covenant? (An invisible bond with God. God promises to remain with us forever.)

Have the children repeat...

- Holy Baptism with water changes our relationship with God. We are closer to Him.
- By Holy Baptism we become a "Christian".

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- What does the officiant do before the act of Holy Baptism? (He consecrates the water.)
- What sign does he do?  
(He dips his finger into the water, makes the sign of a cross on the child's forehead three times.)
- What does he say? ("I baptize you in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.")
- What does God do through Holy Baptism?  
(We draw closer to God. We become a part of the church of Christ. The original sin is washed away.)
- We want to keep this covenant with God.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Repeat the Message</b> <b>Through Holy Baptism with water,</b> <b>we become closer to God.</b></p>
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