

Grade 1 - Chapter 18

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Identify Baptism as the Sacrament that brings new life in God and makes the person a member of the Church
- Name grace as God's gift of sharing in his life and help

Welcome!

Ask: What Sacrament welcomes you into the Church?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Work with Words

Use index cards to introduce the words *Baptism* and *grace*.

Tell the children that at Baptism holy water is poured on a person's head.

- Ask a child to pour a small amount of water from a pitcher into a bowl. Explain that Baptism is a welcoming celebration.
- Have a second child pour more water. Tell the children that through Baptism a person becomes a member of God's family, the Church.
- Have a third child pour more water. Explain that in Baptism we become children of God.
- Ask: How do you welcome people into your home or classroom?
- ▶ Music Option: Have the children sing, "Belonging Through Baptism" or "We Welcome You Into Our Church," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Welcome!, *continued*

- Tell the children that they are going to hear a Bible story about Baptism.

God's Word

Proclaim "People Everywhere Believe."

- Explain that after Jesus died, he sent his Apostles out into the world to share the Good News and baptize people.

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Point out the word *Christians* and explain that Christians are followers of Jesus.

Invite a volunteer to pour the remaining water from the pitcher into the bowl. Tell the children that the Holy Spirit comes to the person at Baptism and gives him or her the strength to do Jesus' work.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work independently to write their ideas.
- After a short time, have them discuss with a partner.

Quick Review

In Baptism a person is cleansed of Original Sin and any personal sin, welcomed into the Church, becomes God's child, and receives grace to lead a holy life. God's life and love, communicated to people, is called grace.

Discover (2)

Objective

- Examine the signs and symbols of Baptism

Becoming Church Members

Ask: What happens in Baptism?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Invite the children to look at the pictures on this page as you read the captions.

- Ask the children which person is the one receiving Baptism. ***the baby***
 - Ask them to tell who else is shown in the photos. ***the baby's parents, godparents, and a priest***
 - Ask the children what objects are used in celebrating Baptism. ***holy water, a candle, a white garment, Sacred Chrism, the Oil of Catechumens***
 - Explain that the container of water in which people are baptized is called a font.
- Tell the children that you will show the actions and say the words that are most important in Baptism.
- Refill the pitcher of water. Using the bowl, pour the water three times, once for each mention of the persons of the Holy Trinity.
 - Have the children say the words with you as you pour the water.

Becoming Church Members, *continued*

Read aloud the paragraph.

Our Sunday Visitor - Alive in Christ

- Emphasize that both our parents and our godparents promise to help us live as children of God.
- Explain that the entire parish promises to help us live as followers of Jesus.

Work with Words

Hold up an index card with the word *godparents* to introduce the new word.

- Suggest that when they go home, the children ask their families to tell them about their godparents.

Activity

Point out the Connect Your Faith activity and read aloud the directions for the matching game.

- Answer any questions the children may have.
- Give them time to complete the activity.

Quick Review

A priest or deacon baptizes a person by pouring holy water on his or her head while saying: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” A candle, a white garment, the Oil of Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism are also used in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Catechist Tips: Giving Directions

Clear directions help children stay focused.

- Make sure you have the children’s attention before giving directions.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Speak in a clear voice.
- Give only one direction at a time.

Catechist Tips: Birth Names

The name you receive at birth is usually the name you have at Baptism and throughout your life.

- In traditional Native American cultures names often changed as people grew older and revealed talents and strengths. For example, a child’s name might be changed to Sings Like A Bird if the child had a beautiful voice.
- Invite the children to make up names that describe their talents and interests.

Catechist Tips: The Book of Acts

The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the Gospel according to Luke.

- It describes the early growth of the Church, starting with Jesus’ Ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
- The author of Acts was eager to show the various ways that the Holy Spirit was active among the early Christians.

Catechist Tips: Godparents

The parents of the child to be baptized generally choose two godparents, one male and one female.

- There must be at least one godparent. This person must be Catholic, at least sixteen, and have celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- A person from a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be a witness at a Catholic Baptism along with a Catholic godparent.

Catechist Tips: White

In addition to the Sacrament of Baptism, white garments also play an important role in two other Sacraments:

- Girls and boys typically wear white garments when receiving their First Communion.
- Brides traditionally wear white for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Catechist Tips: Followers of Jesus

Have the children listen closely as you proclaim the Scripture passage twice. Tell them to listen closely to the last sentence. Invite them to think of ways that people can tell that they are followers of Christ, letting them give specific examples in day to day life. Write their ideas on the board or chart paper in simple words. In pairs, let them choose one example to illustrate on 5 x 7 paper. As each pair shares its story, tape the stories to a large newsprint paper that is titled: We Are Followers of Jesus!

Glossary Activity: Baptism

At Baptism, a candle is lit from the Easter candle as a reminder to keep the light of Christ burning in one's heart.

- Draw a candle on a large piece of paper. Invite the children to name things they will do to bring God's love to others.
- Write their ideas on the candle.

Additional Activity: Sacrament of Baptism

Help the children research various cultural customs surrounding the celebration of Baptism.

- Guide the children in using reference books and appropriate Internet sites.
- Invite the children to survey family members about baptismal customs.