



REAL LIFE **kids**  
BAPTISM CLASS

# Welcome

In this class, we will take about 45 minutes to go over the Bible, what it says about Jesus, our need for a Savior, and how baptism fits in with committing our lives to Jesus. There will be a lot of interaction and places where you (the parent/guardian) can help tell the story.

At the end of the class, if you have determined that your child is ready, you can fill out a card and we will get your baptism scheduled.

**Now let's get started!**

# Creation

## In the beginning...

*The Lord God had planted a garden in the east. It was in Eden. There he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground. Their fruit was pleasing to look at and good to eat. The tree that gives life forever was in the middle of the garden. The tree that gives the ability to tell the difference between good and evil was also there.*

*Genesis 2:8-9 (NIV)*



**What are some things that God created in the Bible?**



**God made all of these things and said that they were good. But there was one negative thing that happened in the early chapters of the Bible. What was it?**



**God noticed that something wasn't good. What was it?**



## You are free to eat from any tree...

*And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)*



**God made Eve, and mankind was complete. But then they blew it. What was the one rule that God gave to Adam?**



**What was the consequence for disobeying that rule?**



**Did they listen to God? What happens next in the story?**



**The serpent enters the picture. Who does he represent?**

## The serpent said...

*The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden'? The woman said to the serpent, "we can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'" "You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God." Genesis 3:2-5 (NIV)*



**Does this sound like it would be good? To know things, you have never known before? To be more like God?**



**Has a friend ever told you to do something that sounded good, even though you knew it was a bad idea?**



**Did Adam and Eve listen to God or to the serpent?**



**What is it called when we do something that goes against what God wants us to do?**

# Sin

**What is sin?** Sin is an archery term. It means to miss the bullseye. To miss the mark. Do you obey perfectly every time? Then you have sinned.

## What are some examples of sin?

Disobeying God	Lying
Disobeying your parents	Stealing
Being rude	Loving something more than Jesus
Not trusting God	

Romans 3:23 says that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Every single one of us. Your parents, your teachers, your friends and families, even the nice little old lady you see at the grocery store.

We all miss the mark, or the bullseye. Not one of us has ever made it even a day without sinning.

## We have all sinned...

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 (NIV)*



**What does sin do?**



# The woman saw that the fruit was good...

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

Genesis 3: 6-12 (NIV)



**What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit?**



**Have you ever been busted before and said, "She did it first", or "He started it"?**



**What happened when God caught them hiding and blaming each other?**



**What is something really important that God did before he kicked them out?**

This is super important. Even though they sinned, disobeyed God, and ate the fruit, and didn't trust Him, He still loved them.

The same is true for us today. Even when we screw up, God still loves us. How do we know how much God loves us?



# The Gospel

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)*

God loves you guys so much that he gave his son as a way to pay for your sins. and Jesus willingly did it. He willingly died on the cross for you!

# Baptism

Baptism identifies us with Jesus. We die to our old selves like he died on the cross. We go all the way under the water like he was all the way in the grave. We come up out of the water and live a new life like he came up out of the grave when God raised Him from the dead.

Baptism is an act of obedience. We do it because Jesus asked us to, the New Testament clearly models it for us all throughout the book of Acts and the letters to the early church.

Baptism is a physical demonstration that there has been a spiritual change in our lives because we have surrendered our lives to Jesus.

Basically, we are like pickles. What are pickles? A pickle is a cucumber that is "baptized" in vinegar. A pickle will never go back to being a regular cucumber again and is forever changed.



## Why are we baptized?

We are baptized because Jesus modeled it, Jesus commanded it, The apostles commanded and modeled it, and we want to publicly proclaim our faith in Jesus.

**Additional Scriptures: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:38, Romans 6**

## Next Steps

Trying to determine whether a person, especially a child, is ready for baptism is not something that is easily decided. None of us truly know a person's heart. With that said, the decision does come down to you as the parents. You know your child the best and are the primary disciple maker in their life.

### Some things to remember when trying to decide...



Baptism does not guarantee salvation. Just because a person is baptized doesn't mean they go to heaven. Salvation comes from Jesus and what he did on the cross for us.



We do want to do our part in preparing an individual/family in making the choice to be baptized. Making the decision to be baptized should not be done hastily.



#### **Will my son/daughter no longer be bad after they are baptized?**

Baptism doesn't make a person stop sinning. This is not a magic potion that a person is dunked into and they magically stop doing all the bad things they did before. Your child will not obey you perfectly, they will still sin, and they will still make poor decisions. We still have the knowledge (the desire) of good and evil. Being baptized is the start of this journey of making choices to follow God's ways. There is only one that is perfect...JESUS!



You should be noticing fruit or evidence in your kids' lives that Jesus is already their Lord: prayer, selflessness, talking about God and Jesus, serving, giving, etc. The same things that you would expect to see in adults. Ask questions. Every time a person believed in Jesus in the New Testament, they were baptized immediately. They didn't wait. They didn't need to know more or hit a certain age or benchmark in their spiritual maturity.



If your child believes that Jesus is who the Bible says he is, and they have made him their Lord, then they are as ready as they will ever be. They have heard everything they need to "know" to make that decision. It is up to you to gauge whether or not you think they are wanting to follow Jesus in baptism. If so, we would love to help you and them to take that next step of obedience.

What questions do you have?

