

Lesson 14: Baptism

Aims for each learner:

- Understand three truths that baptism shows.
- Either look back in gratitude for their baptism in the past, or look forward and plan for their baptism in the future.
- Memorize Matthew 28:19.

Cultural clues:

- BMBs and baptism
- Ritual washing in Islam

Opening

Last week's practical task: What opportunities did you have this week to witness or share your faith in some way with someone? *For those who haven't, ask 'Are you praying about this?'*

Lesson 14 home study review:

Question 1: of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Question 2: a) person; b) sins, washed; c) community **Question 3:** very important

Introduce today's topic:

Are you like Hamid in the picture? What questions do you have about baptism? We will try to answer your questions today.

Pray for today's lesson or ask a learner to pray.



Discussion

Why should I get baptized? (Questions 2-3)

Question 2: Read the question.

- What is the best reason to get baptized? *Because our Lord Jesus Christ commanded it.*
- Do you know what was the occasion when Christ gave this command? *After his resurrection, just before he was raised up to heaven, he commanded his close followers to continue the work he had begun. From that time until today Christ's followers have been making disciples and baptizing them.*
- Who can say the memory verse Matthew 28:19? *Review this asking everyone to say it.*

What does baptism show? *I am a new person in Christ* (Questions 4-8)

Question 4: Read the first paragraph.



- In your own words, explain what baptism shows about our old and new natures. *Our old nature has been put to death and we have risen to a new life with a new nature*

Question 7: Read Firaz's story.

- Those who have been baptised, when you came out of the water, did you feel like Firaz?
- What were your emotions?

What does baptism show? *My sins are washed away* (Questions 9-11)

Question 10: Read the first paragraph.

- Does the water of baptism have magic power to wash away our sins? *No*
- What does wash away our sins? *1 John 1:7- the blood of Jesus cleanses us. Water just washes the dirt from our bodies, but baptism is a strong symbol of Christ washing sin from our hearts.*

What does baptism show? *I have joined Christ's community* (Questions 12-14)

Question 12-13: Read the whole question about joining Christ's community

- What would you say to the person who claims, 'I am getting baptized for my own sake, it's

between me and God, and I don't have to join a church'?

According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, baptism means becoming part of Christ's body- his community. This may be a traditional church or it may not, but we must join the body of believers in some way. We belong to them and they belong to us. Together we are God's chosen people.

Question 14: Without looking at your books, review the three truths: what does baptism show?

- Which one of these is most important for you?

Is baptism very important? (Questions 15-17)

Question 15-16:

- Is it very important for every believer to be baptized? Why or why not? *Discuss.*

Giving your testimony:



Imagine it is your baptism and that you are giving your testimony to the whole group. What will you say, in five minutes? Use the notes you prepared for question 16.

Ask one or more people to share their testimony to the whole group or alternatively they could take turns sharing in pairs. You should be prepared to share yours too! Note that BMBs are often called upon to do this, as new believers. Sometimes they are asked to do it too many times and they no longer want to be put on a pedestal. Be aware of this as you ask who would like to practice giving their testimony to the group.

When should I get baptized?

Question 21: What did you write for this question? *Some suggestions, depending on circumstances.*

- Don't announce it publicly, but instead invite trustworthy people privately;
- Have the baptism in a quiet place where outsiders can't see;
- Only have one camera and let the baptized person decide who will have copies of the pictures;
- With that camera, don't take photos when the baptized person is in the water (photos can be taken afterwards, in a group with friends);
- If there is a baptism certificate, keep it in a very safe place.

Question 22: Read the first paragraph.

- What did you write here?

Discuss together. There is no 'right' answer because it depends on circumstances. Those who waited until they could take baptism with their spouses have often been glad of it. But if after many years the spouse still does not turn to Christ, the believing spouse might feel it is right to go ahead on their own.

Note: Check in learners' books, that they have written something for questions 21 and 22. Writing helps them think about it more seriously and take better part in the discussion.

- **Read the teacher's speech bubble.**
- Yes, even though baptism is a bit risky, we should not be too afraid. It is a time to celebrate!"

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- What difference will today's lesson make in your life?
- **Read together the practical task. If anyone doesn't know who they can talk to, point them to a suitable person.**
- You should do this week's task if you have not previously been baptized. And if you are baptized already, you could meet this week with a member of our group who is still thinking about this step. Give that person your advice and pray with him/her.

Pray together:

Leave a few minutes of quiet for learners to pray quietly and reflect on when and how they could be baptized. Then ask each person to share one thing they are thankful for and one area where they have a need. Praise God and pray for these needs.