

BAPTISM

God Story:

Lydia | Acts 16:11-15

Big Idea:

Baptism is how we tell everyone that we want to follow Jesus forever.

Key Verse:

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. | Romans 10:9 (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Baptism is a significant decision that means we're committed to following Jesus forever. Help the kids understand the covenant that people step into when they get baptized. There's no age requirement, but it can be difficult for kids to grasp. Highlight the many other ways people can show that they want to follow Jesus.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about things people do or wear to show what's important to them. Introduce baptism and the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Work in smaller groups to create cheers about following Jesus.

Gs God Story

Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes***
Discuss the video teaching and the symbol of baptism. Then design t-shirts that highlight following Jesus.
- 5. Prayer Activity** **8 minutes**
Read John 8:12 and ask the kids if they've decided to follow Jesus. Flip to John 13:35 and discuss how we can show people that we follow Jesus.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - What could people tell about who you are just by looking at you?
 - What do you do or wear that shows others what's important to you? (e.g., wearing clothing that shows you support a particular team or play a certain sport)
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce the Big Idea: **Baptism is how we tell everyone that we want to follow Jesus forever.**
- Let the kids know that after someone decides to follow Jesus, they get baptized. People gather around and someone who's important to them dunks them under water. It's a symbol and a way to show others what's in our hearts.

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Divide the kids into groups of at least four people.
- Explain that at sporting events, people often cheer to show which team they support.
- Challenge the group members to work together to create a cheer that shows they follow Jesus.
- Give them a few minutes to brainstorm ideas and practise their cheers. If any groups get stuck, help them come up with the words and encourage them to add actions. For example:
 - "Who are we going to follow? JESUS!" (repeat louder each time)
 - "J-E-S-U-S. Who will we follow? JESUS!"
 - "Follow! Follow! Follow! JESUS!"
- Invite everyone to demonstrate their cheers for the other groups.
- Point out that just like cheering in front of people for our favourite team, **baptism is how we tell everyone that we want to follow Jesus forever.**



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Lydia | Acts 16:11-15)
 - Life Story (Watch as a few of our friends get baptized and share why they did.)

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- T-Shirt activity pages
- Markers

Leader Tip:

- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What is this month's Key Verse? (Romans 10:9)
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
- Remind the kids that baptism shows what's in our hearts. The most important thing isn't the symbol, it's the decision to follow Jesus!
- Give each person an activity page.
- Place the markers where everyone can reach them.
- Remind the kids that earlier you talked about people wearing clothes that say something about them.
- Encourage them to design a t-shirt that shows

something about following Jesus.

- As they work, read the questions on the back of the page. Let the kids know that your group will be talking about these questions in the next activity.

5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bible

Instructions:

- Remain in your small groups.
- Look up and read aloud John 8:12.
- Ask: Have you decided to follow Jesus?
- Give the kids a moment to think and pray quietly
- Look up and read aloud John 13:35.
- Discuss: If we follow Jesus, we are his disciples. How could you show people that you follow Jesus? (e.g., make choices that reflect the things that matter to God; be kind; pray when we need help or when we're thankful; tell our friends what we're learning about Jesus)
- Remind everyone that whether we will follow Jesus is the most important decision we can ever make. Once we've decided, we can tell people in many ways. Baptism is one way to show that we want to follow Jesus forever.
- Pray for each of the kids in your group by name.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verses colouring pages
- Key Verses cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place any crafts and take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- b. Give everyone take-home cards.
- c. Offer Key Verses cards and colouring pages to anyone who has not gotten one yet this month.
- d. Remind them to take any crafts.
- e. Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.