

## FAMILY TALK BACK QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the reasons you've heard people give regarding why they were baptized? What do you think are good reasons to be baptized?
2. Have you ever asked for forgiveness? How can you tell if you're forgiven? How can you tell when you've forgiven them?
3. Do you have the Holy Spirit living in you? How do you know?
4. Some people call the foot-washing service the "ordinance of humility." What does that mean? Since we don't have servants who wash our feet these days, what would be another way to serve others with humility?
5. Why is the communion service so serious? Why don't they have more food, especially since it is called the Lords supper?
6. If you were to make a symbol to remember that Jesus died for you, what symbol would you use for a reminder
7. Why do you think Jesus gave us symbols such as baptism, foot washing, and the Lord's supper?



NEXT TIME: SPIRITUALITY.



Lesson 5.

# Symbols

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SYMBOLS.

When athletes win a gold medal, they have a symbol they will treasure forever. The medal, which is gold only on the cover, represents something far more than just a piece of metal. It stands for all the practice and the competitions they had to go through and the winning of the final race. When the medal is awarded the national anthem is played and the flag is raised—both symbols of the athletes country. A flag is not a country, but at that moment it symbolises the country. It's a recognition that the athlete is part of a bigger picture. We use symbols all the time. What do you think a symbol is? What do the following symbols mean or represent?



Draw another symbol here.

God has given us symbols too. One of them is found in in Mark 1.4. Write down what you think the symbol is and what it represents.

**Mark 1.4** \_\_\_\_\_

One of the strongest symbols in the Bible is that of baptism. Here we see that it symbolises the fact that a person has repented (turned away from doing wrong things, and turned towards God) and their sins have been washed away. There are other powerful symbols associated with baptism as well. We will look more at this, and other symbols in this lesson.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

Just as the bread symbolised Jesus body, the grape juice represented the blood that Jesus shed on our behalf when he died on the cross. And this is something we are to remember until he returns.



**What does the communion service mean?**

- You want Jesus to come into your life again.
- You want some food to eat before you get home.
- You are looking forward to heaven.
- You want to be better than everyone else.

Jesus has given us some powerful symbols—things that represent much more than what they literally are—so that we can remember what He has done for us. Foot-washing, the Lords supper and Baptism. Write below **what baptism**



**means to me:** \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism is a big decision and one we need to make when we are mature enough to understand fully the choice we are making. But it is a very important decision each one of us needs to make. What about you?

**I want to be baptized:**

- Yes
- Yes, when I am a bit older
- No

**Because:** \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 22.16 commands, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away." The decision to follow Jesus and be baptized will change your life.

## COMMUNION SERVICE

After Jesus was baptised, the devil tempted him in the wilderness. He will tempt you too and sometimes you will fall into that temptation. When that happens do you think you need to be baptised again? Why / Why not? Our sins still need washing away. Write down in your own words what you think Jesus means from the following text.



**John 13:10,14,15.** \_\_\_\_\_

Washing each other feet symbolises so many things. Once you have been baptised your sins have been forgiven, but there are times when you will stumble and fall. Foot washing is another symbol that shows that Jesus forgives us and has washed away our sins. It can also represent our willingness to be humble and our desire to be a servant like Jesus was.

**What does foot washing mean?** (Tick the correct answers)

- Your feet are dirty**
- You want to serve others.**
- Nothing.**
- You want forgiveness for recent sins.**

After Jesus washed the feet of his disciples he then took some bread and broke it. What did he say it represented and what does the following text mean to you?

**1 Corinthians 11:23,24** \_\_\_\_\_

The bread represented how Jesus' body would be pierced and broken for us. What does the next text mean?

**1 Corinthians 11:25,26** \_\_\_\_\_



## BAPTISM OF JESUS

At the beginning of his ministry, what example did Jesus set for the benefit of his followers?

**Mark 1:9** \_\_\_\_\_

What occurred at the baptism of Jesus?

**Mark 1:10-11** \_\_\_\_\_



If one of the symbols of baptism is the washing away of our sins, why do you think Jesus who had no sin was baptised? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was baptised to give us an example of what to do. He was NOT baptised because he had sinned. He was baptised because WE have sinned. Note that Scripture says, "At that time," showing that Jesus was baptised not as a baby but as an adult. Verse 10 'As he was coming up out of the water,' also shows that Jesus was fully immersed when he was baptised. Because of the example that Jesus set, what is commanded of us and what will we receive?

**Acts 2:38** \_\_\_\_\_

Just as Jesus was baptised he wants those who follow him to do the same. Notice that repentance comes before baptism. Repentance is being sorry that you have gone against God and saying that you now want to follow him. When a person is baptised, it openly shows or symbolises that our sins are forgiven. It also represents the Holy Spirit coming into a believer's life. It shows that we want to receive the gift of the Spirit that God promised us.



## SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM.

Baptism also symbolises the following 1) Entry into God's kingdom 2) A new Birth (John 3:3,5) and 3) Marriage between you and Christ. But the most significant symbolism of baptism is found in the book of Romans.

What does Paul say happens when we are baptised? Or what are we baptised into?

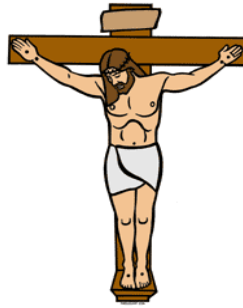
Romans 6:3. \_\_\_\_\_

Just as Christ died for you, when you are baptised it is as if you died to self. That is you die to your old life, in preparation for receiving a new one. Going down into the water represents dying with Christ.

What else does baptism represent?

Romans 6:4-5. \_\_\_\_\_

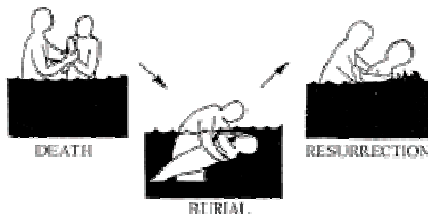
Your old life has gone – it is dead and buried. When you are baptised and lowered into the water it is as if you are dying to self. As you come to that position where you are totally immersed under the water - it symbolises that you have been buried with Christ. But there is a very good reason why we don't leave you under the water.



**Jesus rose again!!** And as you come up at out the water you too are participating in that newness of life. You have been given a brand new life. Baptism is the symbol of the new life that you receive in Jesus. How did Jesus explain this?

John 3:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

You are born again, your sins are forgiven and you are given a brand new start. When you believe in Jesus and are baptised in his name – you take part in the life he offers you.



## THE COMMUNITY OF JESUS

When a person says yes to Jesus, and is baptised they also need to become part of what Jesus is doing here on earth. What do we become a part of?

1 Cor 12:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

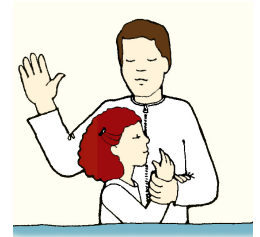
You become a part of the body of Christ, the church, Gods family on earth. God will give you special gifts to build up His church (we will spend a whole lesson on this). How important is it to be a part of and attend church?



Hebrews 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Some people want to be baptised and not be a part of the church. But God is the head of the church, and he wants us to meet together to encourage each other and praise him. He also give us a mission. What is the mission that he gives to us and he gives to the church?

Matthew 28:19 \_\_\_\_\_



The very last words of Jesus on earth were to go and make disciples or followers of Jesus. He instructed us to go to the nations and baptise them. He wants everyone to follow Him and to show that they follow Jesus by when they are old enough being baptised. Answer the following question. (Tick the correct statements).

**What does baptism mean?**

- You need a bath
- You want to start a new life with Jesus
- You now want to choose to completely follow Jesus on your own.
- You will never do anything wrong again for the rest of your life.