



We become followers of Jesus at our Baptism.

By the end of the session you should know:

- 1. Jesus calls us to follow him at the waters of our baptism.**
- 2. At our baptism we are welcomed into the community of Christians called the Catholic Church.**
- 3. We are “sent out” to all the world to proclaim the Lord Jesus.**

**Background Material can be found in the
Catechism of the Catholic Church**

paragraphs # 535-536, # 1224, # 1257-125, # 1213

The catechism is available online at:

www.usccb.org/catechism/text/

Passages from the bible can be found at:

www.usccb.org/bible/

Pray together as a family:

**Lord God,
Your word of life gives us new birth.
May we receive it with open hearts,
Live it with joy,
And express it in love.**

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son.

Amen.

[Rite of Baptism for Several Children]

We want to reawaken the gift we received at our baptism. To help us do this we'll be involved in several activities.

1. Looking at Memories of Baptism

All Ages

Find some things at home that remind you of your baptism and the baptism of your children. These could be pictures, a gift or cards received, a copy of the certificate, the baptismal candle...

Choose one of the things.

Why did you choose it? Talk about this.

Where were you baptized?

Who are your Godparents? Are you a godparent?

Do you remember any of the symbols of baptism?

What are they?

As an adult, would you choose to be baptized ?

Write down a few significant things you talked about as you did this activity.

2. Looking at what the Scriptures says to us.

The Baptism of Jesus

All Ages

"The Story of John the Baptist"

Note: Each of the 4 gospels gives an account of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan.

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1: 4 - 11

What is God saying to you today as you read this bible story ?

Why do you think Jesus asked to be baptized ?

Matthew 28: 16 – 20

Ages 10-Adult

Read the bible passage together...

...in your own heart think about your response

- **What ways do you sense that Jesus is with you today ?**

...then talk about the following and note your responses:

- **What is Jesus asking us to do ?**

- **Where can you go to do what Jesus commanded here?**

- **What are some of the resources needed to teach others?**

3. Spending Time Reflecting and then Moving into Action

All Ages

- **Who played the part of John the Baptist in your life ?**

Who “prepared the way” for Jesus in your life?

- **What would it take to move you a step forward in your relationship with Jesus ?**

Talk about this together as a family and record some of your thoughts.

4. Renewing our Baptismal Promises

Renew together the promises made at your baptism:

Leader: Let us together remember and profess the faith which unites us.

Do you reject Satan?

I do.

And all his works?

I do.

And all his empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do.

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

Amen.

Our Father....

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.” CCC # 1213