

Day 1

Materials and preparation

- ___ Bible
- ___ Matthew 3:13-17 marked in the bible
- ___ Baptismal certificates of each student from parish secretary
- ___ items needed for baptism (see day 1 Kindergarten lesson plan)

Behavior Objective

By listening to the Gospel of Matthew, second Grade students will know Jesus was baptized. By looking at their own baptismal certificate the second grade students will know they were baptized. When we are baptized, we are baptized so God can do something with us to bring people closer to God. Jesus was baptized to show us we have to be baptized. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by listing their talents.

Anticipatory Set

I want you to listen to a story that is the words of Jesus Christ. Since it is written in this book called the Bible, we know these are stories Jesus wants us to hear. So, let us listen as we find out about Jesus' baptism. (Read Matthew 3: 13-17.) Now, I want to show you all something. Here is your baptismal certificate to show you were baptized as well.

Purpose

By our common baptism, God has a plan for each one of us that begins to be revealed at our baptism.

Input

We have heard that Jesus was baptized. We know by looking at our baptismal certificates we were also baptized. Let's spend a few minutes looking at what happens in baptism. (If there is no kindergarten, take them to church and show them the items. You will have to adapt the lesson to fit into allotted time. If there is a kindergarten and this has already happened in kindergarten, then just show them the items in the classroom explaining quickly.)

So, now we know that baptism happens, but why? For one, he washes us clean. You know when you get into a tub and have water over you, it gets you clean. This place, this water which is made holy by the priest, washes away sins and cleans that part of us we can't see called our soul.

There is another reason we are baptized. Jesus was baptized and God said, "this is my beloved Son, listen to him," What do you think we should do after we are baptized? Listen to Jesus. And what will Jesus say to us? He will tell us what to do with our lives so we can be made happy. Jesus will always tell us not to sin and to do good things. But is this it? Once we know we should not sin, then does Jesus care what we do? Of course he cares. He has the answer to make us as happy as we can be. So, we have to look at our gifts. What are we good at?

Spend time with students letting them share what they are good at doing

We should continue to develop our gifts offering these gifts to God. What does that mean? If you are good at playing baseball, then spend time playing baseball for God. It will be different than playing for yourself. You will want others to succeed. You will want to teach others. You will want to be a team player. If you do it for yourself, then the only one that matters is yourself. That is not how God wants us to live.

If you are really smart and you like to learn here, then learn for God. Bring others to learn too. Help others, explain things to others. If you do it for yourself, you will make fun of others; you will refuse to help them and want them to fail so you look better.

So study for God; play for God; work for God, be a son/daughter for God; be a brother/sister for God. All the while you are trying to get other people to see God as the most important person in their lives just as others will help you put God first in your life.

Pick up baptismal candle and remind them that is what this part of the baptismal ritual is all about – bringing people to Christ as others bring the baptized to Christ.

Modeling

Right now I am going to tell you a little about me. I am baptized. As a baptized person, here is how I live my life for God.

Tell important things and how through that part of you, you use that to bring people to Christ; tell them how it could be used selfishly and hurt others. Ex: I am married: I try to bring my husband/wife to heaven. If I were selfish, I would only care about what he/she is doing for me. I have X number of children. I try to show them the way to Christ and to help them see Christ in their daily lives. If I were selfish, I would only want my children to do good because it makes me look good to those around me. etc.

Guided Practice

Now, I want to help you do this activity: Call on student. You were baptized on: God has a plan for you. By finding out what you are good at, you begin to find out God's plan for you. What are you good at? Others, what is Student good at? How can you, Student be selfish with your talent? Student, how could you use this to bring others closer to God? Student, you were baptized; use this gift to bring others to God.

Independent Practice

Don't worry about spelling. Just write down what you are good at. Then, we will take some of these gifts and see how to be selfish and how to use them to bring others to God.

Closure

Today we learned that Jesus was baptized. When he was baptized, God said, this is my Son, listen to him. So, we were baptized. We are given talents by God and we are supposed to use these talents to bring others closer to God. Let's bring these people to God using our talents.

Day 2

Materials and preparation

___ Bible marked to John 20: 19-23

Behavior Objective

Students will know that when we sin, that makes us dirty and separate from God. Reconciliation makes us clean; our sins are washed away. The Priest is going to hear our sins and remove them. The priest can do this because Jesus says the priest can do it. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by answering questions at the end of the lesson.

Anticipatory Set

How many of you like to go out and play in the dirt; or like to get on dirt bikes and go ride them right after it rains? How many of you have to do chores outside? OK, how many of you have ever had to get really dressed up?

I want to tell you a story about Sarah and Billy.

Sarah and Billy are brother and sister. Sarah and Billy were in second grade. They had lots of friends. Everyone liked them. One Saturday they were excited because there wasn't school. They had been in school a long time and were getting tired of going to school; so they were excited it was Saturday. They got up and went outside and rode their bikes through big mud puddles and got all wet. Sarah thought it was neat her shirt was speckled with dirt. Billy wanted to see his whole shirt get black, so he slid his bike through the mud with him still on it. Then, Billy and Sarah remembered it was their day to clean out the pigpen. So they put their bikes away and went to the pig barn and started shoveling the straw – and other things out of the pig pen. Suddenly, Sarah's Mom and Dad came to Sarah and Billy. Dad said OK Billy and Sarah its time to take you to Tom and Lauren's birthday parties. If you don't get going right now you'll be late. No time to waste, let's go. Now, as you can imagine Billy and Sarah wanted to go in and take a shower and change clothes. They were dirty and they smelled really bad. But, Sarah and Billy's parents wouldn't hear of it. It was time to go and they had to go now. And, they didn't have a choice. So very slowly and very quietly they got into the car. Even they knew they smelled bad once they got in the car. When the car stopped in front of the house, they wanted to stay in the car, but Mom and dad said they had to get out and join the party or they would be in big trouble when they got home. So, slowly and quietly they stepped out of the car and looking at each other very sadly began to walk toward the house. They noticed all of their classmates and friends were at this party. So, when they met up with their friends, exactly what they feared began to happen—everyone started making dreaded noises, holding their noses, and running away from Sarah and Billy. They were embarrassed! They just wanted to go home, but it was time to be at the party and they had to stay.

Purpose

Jesus gave us a way to get our sins away from us. He sends us priests to hear our sins and forgive us of these sins.

Input

Tell me how you would feel if you were Sarah and Billy. How would you feel if it were your birthday and someone came like Sarah and Billy?

Let's listen to another story: This one is one Jesus wants us to hear because it comes from his words. It comes from the Bible. John 20:19-23. Jesus wants you to hear this story because in this story he helps Billy and Sarah. You see, Billy's and Sarah's dirt in our story reminds us of our sins. Going to the party and feeling really embarrassed is Jesus looking at us and asking "why are you sinning?" Meeting our friends – well that's different. Jesus says, hey, I'm not going to make fun of you or give you a hard time. I'm going to give you a quick 2 minute cleansing. It won't hurt; the only thing you have to get over is your embarrassment. Let's say once Billy and Sarah got out of the car, a person came up to them and said if you go to that building right there you will find for each of you a separate shower, soap, shampoo washcloth, towel, and a change of clothes that will fit you perfectly. How do you think Billy and Sarah would have felt? That's the priest.

He sees our sinfulness because we have to tell him about it; but he always takes away the sins because that is what Jesus tells him to do. If we want to get clean, we have to tell the priest here is what I did wrong. The priest knows we are sad, embarrassed, ashamed we did these things. He isn't like others. He is not going to laugh at us; he is not going to get angry. He is going to say, let's take those sins away. Let's give these sins to Jesus. Let's put you in right relationship with Jesus and each other again. If you say your sins and you are sorry for them, then the priest can give you absolution. Absolution is the prayer the priest says that takes away your sins. Wouldn't it be great for Billy and Sarah to have that person meet them at the car door and say, come to this building and get cleaned up and look great for this party? Well the priest does the same thing for us in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Now, Billy and Susan could have gone as they were to the party. They would not have to go to the showers first. We don't have to go to confession either, but then, how would you feel at the party? Do you want to be clean with God and do this the way God wants us to do it or do you want to do it your way and just show up dirty? God gives us the choice to do as He wants us to do which will make us happy or to do it our way without his help and guidance which will – well, make us feel like Sarah and Billy without a shower going to the party.

Checking for understanding

Let the children speak about which option they should choose and why.

Closure

Priests are very important in helping us get closer to God. They are the ones who are there to make us clean in front of God by taking away our sins in confession. How many of you boys would like to help others by taking their sins away? You can do it by asking God if he wants you to be a priest. Girls, how many of you would like to teach others about this wonderful gift of confession? You can by asking God if He wants you to be a sister. Each of you ask God tonight if He is calling you to be a priest or sister.

Day 3

Materials and preparation

___ Bible marked to John 1:1-18

___ The readings for the next time the students are at mass.

Behavior Objective

Students look at the importance of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and that the readings come from the Bible. Jesus wants to give us tools to help us not sin and to stay away from sin. He wants to give us his words which we find in the Bible. Sisters teach us the words of Jesus. Anyone can say the words of Jesus. Deacons and priests preach the words of Jesus.

Anticipatory Set

What are some of your favorite stories you have heard since we have been reading stories together. You can share ones you have heard in other classes or from home. We each have our favorite stories. Today we are going to look at Jesus' favorite book that has all of his favorite stories in it. He wrote it with the help of a lot of people. This is a special book. It is called the Bible. It is special because He still speaks to us when we read it. It is really his words and it is his way to speak. Remember, there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. One God three persons. The Father sent his Son into the world and the Holy Spirit is with us now. When we read the Son's words, we are better able to do what the Father wants us to do. Doing what the Father wants us to do is the way we find our happiness.

Purpose

Children will be introduced to the importance of the Bible in their daily lives. To follow the will of God is to be a reader of the Bible.

Input

Let us listen to more of Jesus' favorite stories. Let's listen to a man named John tell us about God the Son and God the Father. John 1:1-18. God the Son is named Jesus once He is born. We celebrate His birth on Christmas every year. We know Jesus came into this world to show us how to live. When we read books like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we read a lot about the life of Jesus; how He was born and only a couple of things about Him as a child. What he does is really important: He heals and cures sick people; He feeds hungry people; He forgives people of their sins; He teaches people; He tells people to come to Him and to love Him because He loves them. He gives us His body for our food and He gives us His blood for us to drink; He dies for us and He comes back to new life for us. He then leaves so God the Holy Spirit can be with us.

This is second grade and we want to get you ready for Confession and Eucharist. We celebrate the Eucharist during Mass. It is the priest who changes the bread and wine into the Body of Blood. But, before that happens at Mass, we listen to Bible stories. So, when everyone sits down at mass and a person goes to read out of a book, those readings are favorite stories of Jesus. Jesus likes those stories and we are trying to be more like Jesus so we can find our happiness. Therefore, Jesus' favorite stories should be stories we want to hear too. If we ask Jesus He can come into our hearts and help us to pay attention and to listen to the words very closely.

Let us now read the readings together that we will hear the next time we are at mass.

Remember, these aren't just some made up stories; these are from Jesus and Jesus wants us to listen to them so He can teach us how to live. We want to listen to him because we want to be happy living the way Jesus wants us to live.

Before reading ask Jesus to come into the children's hearts and minds to better pay attention and to understand these readings. READ the readings either from Sunday or the next school mass. Have them sit for the normal readings and stand for the Gospel reading.

After the Gospel, what happens. After we say, "Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ" and Father kisses the book, then what happens at mass?

Father talks to us/preaches/homily -> Teacher can explain it's called a homily.

During the homily he talks to us about the readings. When he is talking about the readings, he is preaching. When we listen to the readings, we are listening to the words of Jesus Christ. Now, there is a special relationship between the priest and Jesus when Father preaches. Father has prayed to God – we are all supposed to pray to God--. One of the things we are supposed to pray about is "what do we have to do to become more like God; find our happiness." Father asks God about what should all of us be doing and how do these actions fit into these readings. So, when Father preaches, he is telling us what God and the priest talked about in prayer when they talked about these readings. So, really, the homily, are words of Jesus too! Sometimes Jesus through the priest is talking more to your parents than to you; but if you listen carefully, something helpful will be said to you too. So, during the readings we want to listen and pay attention. We want to listen and pay attention during the homily too because it is all Jesus' words to us.

We hear the words of Jesus outside of mass too. When a religious sister is using the Bible to tell us about Jesus that is Jesus speaking to us through Sister. She might be telling the things of Jesus to school children as a teacher; in the hospital as she visits the sick, like Jesus did; in a really far place helping poor people like Jesus; or in a prison where people who did bad things have to live. Sisters can be used by Jesus to spread the message of Jesus too.

Checking for Understanding

Whose favorite stories are in the Bible? Why are we supposed to listen to the stories in the Bible? What happens after we all sit down for the first time at mass? Who is really speaking to us during these readings? Who is really speaking to us during the homily? Whose prayer are we listening to during the homily? When does God use sisters to give us Jesus' words?

Closure

You have homework: to pray to God asking him to help you pay attention and to understand what is being said during the readings and the homily every time you go to mass. Then, for the next few minutes, boys, think about what it would be like to talk to God about these readings and what it would be like to be a priest. Girls, think about what it would be like to talk to people about Jesus using his words as a sister.

Day 4

Materials and preparation

___ Bible marked to Jn 6: 51 & 53-58; Mt 26: 26-28; Mk 14: 22-25; Lk 22: 14-20.

Behavior Objective

Jesus wants to give us tools to help us not sin and to stay away from sin. He wants to give us himself. We receive Jesus when we receive Communion. Priests are the ones Jesus uses to change bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood.

Anticipatory Set

For a couple of years now you have been going to church and until this year have been unable to receive Communion. This is the year in which you are able to receive Communion. Are you looking forward to receiving Communion this year? What parts are you looking forward too? What makes you excited about it? Let them talk about it.

Purpose

Students will understand more about receiving Christ in the Eucharist and that it is priests who are needed to make this happen.

Input

Yesterday we talked about the first part of mass. What did we talk about yesterday that happens at Mass? (Readings) Let's listen to more of Jesus favorite stories. This time we are going to listen to our friend John tell us about Jesus giving us himself for us to eat. Let's listen to John 6: 51 & 53-58. Now, you might say to yourself; it looks like bread; everyone says it is bread; it doesn't look like something out of a butcher shop; how is this his flesh when it looks like bread? Well, Jesus gives us that answer in three different stories in the Bible. Let's look: Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22: 14-20. Now, it looks like, tastes like, smells like bread; but Jesus because he is God changes the bread into his body and the wine into his blood. What "it" is changes even though what "it" looks like, smells like, and tastes like stays the same. We know this is true because this is what Jesus has told us. This happens today because Jesus gave his priests the same ability to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Jesus did not give this gift to anyone else besides his priests. No deacon, sister, or anyone else but a priest can make bread and wine turn into Jesus body and blood. Others can take the Eucharist and give it to others. But, only a priest can make more Eucharist. Think about it, you are so excited to receive communion for the first time – what would happen if there was no priest to make the Eucharist? We could pray to God and say, "let others make us Eucharist."

God would say, "I send priests and so more people must say yes to becoming priests. At your baptism, I know what you are to do to find happiness and how to bring the earth closer to heaven. I am calling some by their baptism to be priests but too many are not listening to me or are just saying "no" so there are not enough priests."

Only priests are able to make Eucharist and so God then says to the one praying, "What are you going to do to encourage more people to become priests; what are you going to do to become a priest if I am calling you?"

Priests are the only ones who can take away sins by absolving them and priests are the only

ones who can make bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood. These are the two things that only a priest can do and it is the two things that make second grade so special in Catholic schools. So, second graders, what are you going to do to help others become priests and sisters? At your baptism God called some of you to be happy by being priest/sister. Tonight, ask God if he is calling you to be a priest (boys) or be a sister (girls).

Checking for Understanding

When we receive Communion, what are we really receiving?

How is that possible if it looks like and tastes like bread and wine?

Which group of people are the only ones who can change bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus?

What are you going to do to find out if God is calling you to be a priest or sister?

What are you going to do to encourage others to find out?

Closure

You were baptized. When you were baptized Jesus said I know what you need to do to find your happiness. For a while we think that means don't sin. That is part of it. It also means He has a plan for us. He gives us tools that both help us from sinning and showing us what He wants from us. This tool, this greatest tool, this greatest gift is himself in the Eucharist. Some boys are called at their baptism to become priests; some girls at their baptism are called to become priests. Are you one of them? The only way to know is to pray and begin looking at your gifts and talents. Is your classmate called to be a priest or sister? Pray for them and look at their gifts and talents, too. We'll look more at this tomorrow.

Day 5

Materials and preparation

___ 2 identical small items (sticker, pencil, etc)

___ Bible marked Matthew 20: 1-16

Behavior Objective

Because we receive this great gift; the greatest gift of Jesus himself in the Eucharist we must respond by becoming more like Jesus and doing what God wants us to do: marriage, priesthood, Religious sister.

Anticipatory Set

How many of you own a toy gun? How many of you own a b-b gun? Now, at second grade, you probably aren't old enough to own a rifle. If your parents say you are, you probably weren't old enough at the age of 3 or 5. Getting your own gun is a big responsibility. What is the big responsibility of owning your own gun?

How many of you have a bike? What are responsibilities of owning a bike?

Why don't we give second graders cars and trucks and driver's licenses?

When we receive the greatest gift in the world: greater than any gun or rifle; greater than any automobile, greater than any house, castle, mansion: the greatest gift of the Eucharist which is Jesus. We want to spend all eternity with Jesus, not just until our body wears out. So, if this is the greatest gift given to us, don't you think this gift comes with responsibility just like owning a gun or a car? Today we will look at what God the Father expects of us since He is giving us his only Son.

Purpose

Children will understand that to receive the Eucharist is part of their lives to help them make decisions and is not a separate part of their lives done on school mass days and Sundays.

Input

I want us to understand what a gift is. Here Student 1 and Student 2 I am giving you a gift. (sticker or pencil, something simple) Now, why am I giving you this gift? Because I can. I own the thing and now I am giving it to you because it is mine to do with as I wish. I can use it for myself or I can give it away. I choose to give it to you. Why you two; why not these other two. It's a gift. Since it is a gift and not a reward or token, I can give my gift to whomever I please and I don't have to have a reason for giving it to you. Were you expecting me this morning when you arrived at school for me to give you a (GIFT.) No, you can expect me to give you rewards if I tell you "if you do this, I will give you this." But, that's not a gift, it's a reward. Gifts are freely given. They are not for a purpose except that the one giving the gift wants to give it. It is not expected. Since I gave this gift to you, do I have to give it to these people? No. I do not have to do anything with gifts. Gifts are completely under the control of the person who owns the gift. I can choose to keep it for myself or give it to someone. Who I choose to give it to is my choice and that I choose to give it to one or two or fifty. I don't have to explain my reasons for giving it either. That is the beauty of gifts.

God chose freely to give us his son. He gives it to those who choose to believe in him and live like we believe in him. Let's look at a story from Jesus' favorite stories, the Bible.

Read Matthew 20: 1-16

Many adults and many children find this story to be very unfair. But Jesus answers that complaint at the end. It is his money; He didn't cheat anyone with their work and money, He was generous to everyone.

He owns the gift. It is His to do with as He wishes.

Now, if I give you each a car when you turn 16, how would you thank me? If I gave each of you 100 right now, how would you thank me? Would you be more likely to do what I asked of you today? If I gave you \$100 a week, would you be more likely to do what I ask of you each week. If I said to do things that might seem difficult would you try your hardest to do it? What if I said, I was going to give you \$1000 a week? Would you try your best? What if I said I'll give you \$1000 a week and give you answers if you come visit me, would you come visit for the answers and try hard to do right?

This is what Jesus is doing: He is giving us so much more than \$1000 a week when he gives us himself. Then He says just receiving me is not going to be enough – even though it is the greatest gift I can give and you can receive. You have to live for me. If you come and listen to my word at Mass as well as speak and listen to me outside of Mass, I will give you the answers.

If I were giving you a thousand dollars a week and giving you answers to be happy would you want to be my friend? Would you want to get to know me more than just as a teacher?

Jesus wants us to get to know him. So, one of the best ways to know him is to listen to his answers in the readings of the Bible at the beginning of mass and then receive his great gift of himself in the Eucharist. After receiving answers and receiving Jesus, here comes your responsibility to this gift. You have to go try to live those answers in your life. What did Jesus tell you to do this week? How did he tell you to live this week?

Closure

How are you to be a good son/daughter? How are you supposed to be a good brother/sister? How are you supposed to be a good friend? How are you supposed to be a good student on the playground and in the classroom? How are you supposed to be a good teammate?

One question Jesus wants you to ask every day is, "Where did you place me when I was baptized? Am I to be married? Am I to be a priest? Am I to be a sister?" Don't answer by what you think you want. Ask God what He wants – because He wants what will make you happiest and God knows what will make you happiest – not you. He created you for happiness; you did not create God for your happiness. "Help me Lord to find the answer and follow it in my life. In the mean time help me be the best second grade person I can be."

Jesus wants you to follow him all week, not just in religion class or at Church, but always. That is the responsibility that comes with this gift. And certainly, you would want to come back next week to get more answers and another thousand dollars. We get so much more than this at Mass so it is a place you want to be.