



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

**Seasons and
Celebrations**

Baptism

Bible Readings

Matthew 3

Matthew 21

Matthew 28

Romans 6



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of Baptism in the Bible
- Express the theme in your own way
- Apply your learning from the theme to your own life and community

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What is the significance of Baptism?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

What first comes to mind when you hear the word “Baptism”?

5 Fast Facts about Baptism:

1. The word “Baptism” comes from the Greek word baptizo, which means “immersing”.
2. There is debate amongst Christians about how a person should be baptised. Some sprinkle water upon the head, others are dunked full into the water, while others baptise children.
3. Baptism is considered to be a form of rebirth, symbolic of dying to the old self, and rising again to a new life, following the way of Jesus.
4. In the Middle Ages it was common for infants to be baptised, this was because of the strong adherence to the doctrine of “original sin”. Put simply, humanity is born into a sinful position because we are humans, and are therefore can be saved through baptism.
5. When an adult is baptised, it is often referred to as a “believer’s baptism”.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn’t understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Romans 6 : 1 – 23

Baptism is a significant ritual within the Christian tradition. Over the centuries, Christians have been performing this ritual of water. So what is significant about Baptism?

For many Christians, Baptism is a deeply symbolic act. To be Baptised is to follow the way of Jesus, the disciples, and the early church members as they committed themselves to a different way of living. The act of Baptism, being immersed in water, symbolises for many the death of their old life, and an entrance into a new lifestyle with a renewed focus upon God.

Baptism itself doesn’t denote the end of the Christians life, but rather the beginning. It is a public declaration of something that is deeply personal and significant. It is an announcement that the individual chooses to follow Christ and his radical way of love.

Very often, the act of Baptism is performed in front of a community of faith. However, the scriptures also tell of people being baptised in a very private way (See the example of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch,

Acts 8:26-38). So there isn’t necessarily a “correct” way in which one should be baptised, Christians have baptised in a whole host of ways throughout the centuries. The most vital part about this ritual is not how it is done, but rather what it symbolises.

Explore – Express

Take a moment to reflect upon the significance of water in the ritual of baptism.

- What is important about water?
- What does water do for us?
- How do we use water?
- Are there any other things that come to mind when you reflect upon water?
- Where do we find water?
- What may have been important about water in the 1st century, when Jesus was baptised?

Explore – Integrate

- What stands out to you from the reading that we shared today from Romans 6?
- What do you think Paul means when talks about sinning more so that grace may abound?
- What do you think is going on here for the community that Paul is writing to?
- What do you think the purpose of Baptism is?
- Which parts of the ritual are most important?
- How does a person know when they're ready for baptism?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Share this Psalm together as a prayer:

Psalm 63 : 1 – 8

- ¹ *O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*
- ² *So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.*
- ³ *Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.*
- ⁴ *So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.*
- ⁵ *My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips*
- ⁶ *when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;*
- ⁷ *for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.*
- ⁸ *My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.*

Amen