

Lesson Plan for Lesson 18

Baptism

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 18, “Baptism,” in the handbook.
- Gather a bowl of water; blindfolds, one for each participant; markers; and tape
- Cut a 6-foot sheet of foam-core board (or two large sheets of poster board) into fourteen puzzle pieces. Write one of the effects of Baptism from the handout “Fourteen Effects of Baptism” (Document #: TX003395) on each puzzle piece. During the activity these fourteen pieces will eventually be assembled to form a door.
- Write the following terms on a sheet of newsprint: *Sign of the Cross, water, lit candle, white garment, oil, and community.*

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a Blessing of Water. **Introduce** and lead the prayer by reading the Pray It! “Blessing of Water,” on page 197 in the handbook. Then **invite** the young people to come forward and dip their hand in the bowl of water and make the Sign of the Cross.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation

1. **Distribute** a blindfold to each participant, and have the young people blindfold themselves. Then turn out the lights. **Proclaim** Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–25 (the second story of Creation) and Genesis 3:1–7 (the first sin). Keeping their blindfolds on, the participants are to now share their responses to the question, Why do you think darkness is an appropriate symbol for sin, especially Original Sin? When everyone is done sharing, **turn** the lights back on and have the participants remove the blindfolds.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the sections “The Sacraments of Christian Initiation” and “A Short History of Baptism,” on pages 192–196 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 3 on the handout “Lesson 18 Summary” (Document #: TX003394).
3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content.

B. The Effects of Baptism

1. **Ask** the young people to form pairs. **Tell** them to make a list of the top ten challenges of being a young person and living out their baptismal call to share in the mission of the Church. **Invite** each pair to share its list with the rest of the class.



2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “The Effects of Baptism” and “Necessary for Salvation,” on pages 196–201 in the handbook. The content covers points 4 through 9 on the handout “Lesson 18 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Direct** the participants to the Reflect directions on page 200. **Ask** them to write a letter to their imaginary godchild according to the directions.

C. The Baptism Rite

Direct the participants to read the section “Baptism Rite,” on pages 201–202 in the handbook. The content covers point 10 on the handout “Lesson 18 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Distribute** one piece of the puzzle and a marker to each person. If your class has fewer than fourteen people, distribute two pieces to participants as needed. If your class has more than fourteen participants, have them form pairs as needed. **Explain** that each puzzle piece is one belief we hold about Baptism. Using the terms you have posted on newsprint, **talk** about the primary symbols of Baptism.
2. Then **invite** the young people to answer the following questions:
 - Which symbol of Baptism is most closely connected with the sentence on your puzzle piece?
 - Name three concrete ways we show others that these beliefs are real and active in our lives. For example, if your belief is “In Baptism, the Holy Spirit calls us to share Christ’s mission by being living signs of the Kingdom of God,” then a concrete example of living this is by sharing some of your possessions with those people who are less fortunate.
3. When the participants have completed their task, **invite** them to bring the puzzle pieces forward and explain what their belief is, what symbol they chose and why, and how they can show others that these beliefs are real and active in their lives. They should then match their pieces up to complete the puzzle (they might not be able to do this with the first few pieces). After the puzzle is completed, **secure** the edges with tape. **Stand up** the “door to the new world.”

Share the following comment in your own words:

- Our experience with Baptism opens up the spiritual world to us. Through water those who are baptized are born again as God’s children and as members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **close** by having the young people renew their baptismal promises.

Instruct the young people to reply “I do” after the following questions:

- Do you reject Satan?
- And all his works?
- And all his empty promises?
- Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth?



- 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?
- 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 the life everlasting?
- This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

(The baptismal promises in the closing prayer are from the English translation of the *Rite of Baptism for Children* © 1969, ICEL, numbers 57–58, in *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, volume one, prepared by the ICEL, a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990]. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN. Used with permission of the ICEL.)

