
3. Jesus Saves Sinners continued...

Scripture: Romans 5:8

Here we emphasized that God's love motivated him to send Jesus to save sinners and that only through Jesus can we be saved.

Illustration: At this point I asked for someone to volunteer to take a test. Then I gave them a test that would be impossible to pass. I let the whole class help this volunteer but after 5 questions it was apparent that no one knew the answers. The volunteer failed the test. Then I wrote down the answers to the test on my paper and I told the class, "Now, I'm going to hand the tests in to Pastor Brandon, and he's going to grade them."

But before I handed them in I said, "We need to put our names on these tests or Pastor Brandon won't know who they belong to. But here's what I will do. I'm going to put my name on your test. And I'm going to put your name on my test. This way, you will get my perfect score, and I will take your failing grade."

I then explained that this is like what Jesus has done for sinners. He wasn't sinful. He was perfect. He passed all God's tests perfectly. BUT, out of love he has taken our failings and sin on himself. He took the punishment for all of it so that we could have his perfect score given to us and we could be saved!

This good news is what your student must understand, accept AND LOVE with all their heart before they decide to be baptized.

After these three classes your student may decide they are not ready to be baptized. That's ok! Keep sowing the seeds of this amazing news into their hearts.

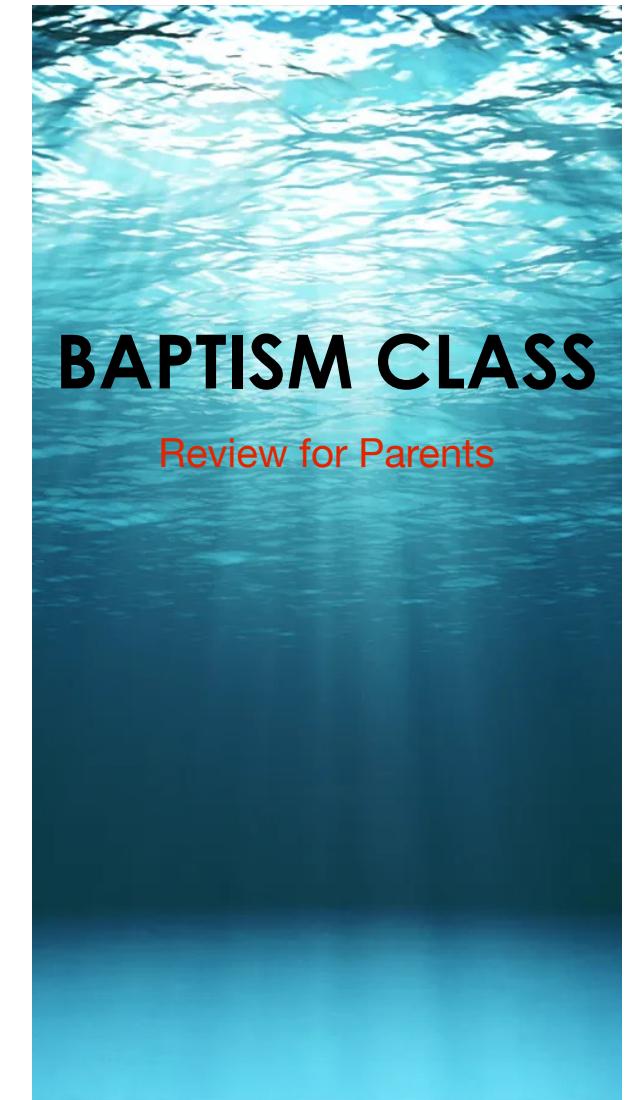
Your student might decide to give their lives to Jesus as Savior and Lord for the first time.

Your student might already have done this and decide they also want to obey Jesus and identify themselves with Christ and with his church through baptism. All of this would be wonderful!

Use this content, other Scriptures and the wisdom of God's Spirit to help your student see the truth and the cost of the gospel. Use this to discern whether your student has placed their trust in Christ and understands what it means to follow him and trust him.

I would especially encourage a parent to attend our last class so they can share in leading their students toward a better understanding of these eternal truths.

We will see you next week at Noon!



To Parents

Parents, next to the Lord, you are the most influential people in your student's life. Scary, right?

Actually, this is thrilling news! God made you and gave you these children as a way of shaping their souls for eternity. So, he made you for this. You are one of the means that God has chosen to use to call your students to trust in and follow Christ.

Thank you for sending them to our Baptism Class! This resource you are holding is meant to sum up what we talked about this week and give you an extra resource for talking with your children about their relationship with Christ.

In this first class we talked exclusively about the gospel: the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for sinners. This class set the ground work for us to have a much better understanding of what baptism is and why we do it.

Reach out to Pastor Cory or Pastor Brandon with any questions you have or additional resources you need!

Week One: The God-Centered Gospel

Opening Illustration: We talked about "The Evangel Family" and their boating trip. We asked, "what might this family take with them to feel safe in the choppy waters?" Of course, they all said, "Life Jackets!" Then I asked, "Will the jackets save them if they fall in the water?" Most students said, "Yes!" But then I explained that actually, "The water is extremely cold and the jackets won't protect them from hypothermia. The only way to be saved is to be rescued."

The Point: A lot of people believe things about God that are like that life jacket. They believe God is real. They believe God is good. They believe God is loving. And those things make them feel safe. But they don't really say anything about where real safety comes from. NOT ONLY THAT, but these beliefs are often very much about our feelings and not about God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 shows us that the gospel isn't primarily news about us and what we can do. It's news about Christ and what he has done!

Three Gospel Truths

1. God is our Holy Creator

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-6

We used this Scripture to show that no matter how good we think we are, none of us are able to stand in God's presence without understanding that we are sinful to the core...

2. We are Sinners

Scripture: Romans 3:23 & 6:23

These passages remind us that we are naturally sinners and that our sin leads to death.

Illustration: We read through "Fool Moon Rising" together to explain how sin is thinking that we are the center of the universe. It is like being proud of how great we are without realizing that all we have is the gift of a good God that we are failing to honor. The book concludes by showing that a greater joy is found in worshiping this good God who made us to know him.



3. Jesus Saves Sinners

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:15 & John 3:17

Here we remembered the family from our first illustration. Saying, "we can't save ourselves from death and sin, but Jesus isn't sinful and so he can reach down and save us..."