

## New City Catechism

Question 44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Before you read the Q & A for this week, begin by discussing some of the ways you know people are members of various clubs/communities. How do you know someone is a police officer? How about a team member on a school sports team? If Mom or Dad has a story of what they did to become a member of some society/club, share that now!

Now ask, how would you know someone is a Christian?

Today we are going to discuss one of the significant ways that shows others you belong to Christ. What do you think it is? (*Baptism*)

Today's question is "What is baptism?" Go over the answer and commit it to memory.

**Read Acts 2:36-41.** Explain that this passage gives us the closing of the apostle Peter's first sermon on the day of Pentecost when the first church got started.

- When the people asked what they should do about what Peter told them, what did Peter say they should do? (*"Repent and be baptized"*).
- Look at v.41. Who was baptized that day? (*Those who "received his [Peter's] word"*).
- What happened to those who received Peter's words and were baptized? (*They were "added"*).
- What were those who received Peter's word and were baptized added to? (*The community of believers—the church*).

Get a Barbie or action figure and a tub/bowl of water big enough to "baptize" it in.

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Get a Barbie or action figure and a tub/bowl of water big enough to "baptize" it in.

- Explain, “Our answer speaks of baptism ‘washing with water,’ and that is certainly something that baptism pictures. But there is something else that it also pictures.”
- Perform a baptism on Barbie or action figure and ask, “What does lowering the figure under the water signify? What about raising it back up?” (*Death, burial and resurrection*).

**Read Romans 6:3-5.**

- Explain, “Baptism does not just picture washing away our sins, but also being *united* with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection by faith. It is a sign that we have believed his death, burial and resurrection ‘counts’ as ours.”
- “So when we are baptized, we are showing others that we are joined to Christ and are counting on his death, burial and resurrection to save us.”

We will learn more about baptism next week, but for now it is important for us to know that baptism is a picture of Jesus washing away our sins by faith in his death, burial and resurrection for us. It is a sign before others that we are united with Christ by faith in him and what he has done for us. It also shows that we are “added” to the community of believers in Jesus.

The video for today’s question is short and easy to understand. I encourage you to watch it!

Use the prayer on the New City Catechism website as your closing prayer today.

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Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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