

**Start-Up/Third Grade Lesson Plan  
Session 10 – Baptism and Confirmation**

**Materials needed:**

- **Baptismal candle (in tub)**
- **White garment (in tub)**
- **Holy Water (small container in tub)**
- **Craft sticks (in tub)**
- **Sharpie marker (in tub)**

**Before class begins:**

- ✓ Prepare your craft sticks according to the directions in the game below.

**Prayer:**

**Our Father/Hail Mary/Glory Be**

**Say:**

**Last week we learned what a sacrament is – who remembers?** (A sacrament is given by God. It is something we can see that reminds us of things we can't see.)

- **There are very important things that we can't see but God wants us to know about them. So He gives us signs – things we CAN see that will show us that those things are real even though they are invisible.**
- **The sacraments are even more than signs – they bring us into the actual presence of Christ Himself.**
- **What could be so important to God? What are some of the things He wants us to know?**

† That He exists.

† That He loves us.

† That He is always close to us, especially when we are sick or during bad times. That He forgives our sins and gives us special power to do the things that are hard (like forgiving others). That special power comes to us every time we receive a sacrament.

- **How do we know that the sacraments came from God?**

† The Bible tells us about the sacraments and how they are from our loving Father. Jesus talks about all of them in scripture.

- **Today we're going to talk about two more of the sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation. These two sacraments are very closely related, in fact, in the early Church, you received Baptism and Confirmation at the same time!**

(Bring out the Baptismal candle, Holy Water and garment.)

- **Did you know that the day you were baptized was the most important day of your life?**
- **On that day, you actually became a member of God's own family – you became a son or a daughter of the Most High God. Pretty awesome!**
- **Some other pretty important things also happened on that day, things no one could see, not your parents, not your Godparents, not even the priest but they did happen and they were real – I wonder if you know what they are...**
- **Maybe it will help us to look at the signs we use for Baptism. Things we can see that tell us about the things we can't see.**

**Water:** (show Holy Water)

† **When you are baptized, water is poured three times on your head in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

† **Why water? What is Jesus wanting us to know?**

† **Well, let's think about water – for one thing, it's cleansing. When something is dirty, it's really hard to get it clean without water, isn't it?**

† **Do you remember when we talked about Original Sin? Well, the water of Baptism cleanses us of that sin and takes it away forever.**

† **What else do we know about water? We can't live without it, can we?**

† **When we are baptized with water we are made sons and daughters of God but we are also re-created. God does not just cleanse you and forgive you; He also *adopts* you.**

† **Water can also be scary, can't it? Too much water can cause a flood and a lot of destruction. Too much water can also bring death.**

† **The water of baptism tells us that we die to our old sinful life and rise in Christ to live as sons and daughters forever.**

† **Wow! We can't see any of those things when we are baptized, but they are real and they really happened to YOU.**

† **The signs help us to see those invisible realities.**

- **Candle**

† **A candle like this one was lit at your baptism. Maybe you even still have yours.**

- † **Why do we do that? Is the electricity turned off in the church? Do we need extra light? What’s going on with the candle?**
- † **God showed his presence many times in the Bible, often by fire.**
- † **Fire shows us that God is really and truly there when you are baptized. It is God who re-creates you on that day.**
- † **Candles also remind us that Jesus is the light of our lives and we should always follow Him.**
  
- **The White Garment**
  - † **You may have noticed that most baptismal gowns are white; the color white signifies purity and sinlessness.**
  - † **But many times the person who is being baptized does not wear white so we always have a white garment for them, usually like this white cloth which is laid upon them or given to them.**
  - † **We are made sinless and pure when we are baptized and the white cloth helps us remember that.**
  - † **Can we see the forgiveness of our sins? What helps us know for certain that it is really happening? (When we know what the white garment stands for, it is something we can see that helps us remember what is really happening.)**
  
- **Jesus Himself tells us in the Gospel of John how important baptism is.**
  - † **He says, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of the water and Spirit.”**
  - † **What does Jesus mean? How can we be “born again” when we are already here?**

† **Do you remember how we said that we are “re-created” when we are baptized? That we are really a new creation? This is what Jesus is talking about.**

† **Are you beginning to see how important the sacraments are?**

**This is one of the most important verses in the Bible. Let’s take a break and play a game that will help us remember it!**

Bible Verse Game:

- ✓ Before class begins, select 3 yellow, 3 red, 3 green and 3 blue craft sticks from the box.

Write the following with a sharpie marker:

On the yellow stick – “No one can enter

On the red – the Kingdom of Heaven

On the green – without being born

On the blue – of water and Spirit.”

- ✓ Write “ I say to you, no one shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven without being born of water and Spirit” on the board.
- ✓ Divide your class into three groups.
- ✓ Mix and distribute the sticks so that each group has an equal amount but be sure the sticks are not in any kind of order.
- ✓ Gather the kids into a circle so they are still sitting together as groups.
- ✓ The first group decides on a stick it doesn’t need to complete their verse and passes it to the group on its right

- ✓ . The second group passes a stick it doesn't need to the right. Play continues until a group has the entire verse in order.

Say:

**How important is Baptism to Jesus? How do we know this?**

- **Confirmation is a sacrament that is very much tied to Baptism in fact, that's where it gets its' name!**
- **The Catholic Church confirms your Baptism.**
- **That means the Church recognizes everything you received in your baptism and says you are ready to receive the Holy Spirit in a new way and even more gifts from God!**
- **You usually receive the sacrament of Confirmation in high school. You will learn much more about this sacrament when you study to receive Confirmation.**