

In Baptism, Lord, you call us to the work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Breathe your life into all of us that we might be washed clean and inspired to work for the good of all people. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus used water as a sign of forgiveness, healing, and eternal life.

Day 1 Luke 3:1-17

1. People were coming out to be baptized by John the Baptist in the Wilderness. In verses 10-14 as different groups are baptized, what does John the Baptist instruct them should be the change in them as a result of this baptism?
 - a. The crowds:

 - b. Tax collectors:

 - c. Soldiers:
2. Think about those instructions to each group. What then do you think a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” means when it is used in verse 3?
3. What do you think John the Baptist means when he says *“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming . . . he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire?”*

Day 2 Read Matthew 3:14-17

- 4a. Describe the scene as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan.

- b. Since we are baptized just like Jesus is, we are united with him in baptism. Given the scene that takes place at his baptism, what might we learn about how God thinks about us in our baptism?

Day 3 Read John 2:1-11

- 5a. What precipitated the crisis at the Wedding at Cana in Galilee?
 - b. What is Jesus response to Mary when she points the problem out to Jesus? What do you think Jesus means by his response to his mother?
- 6a. Where does Jesus get the water to change into wine?

- b. What do you think is the significance of the original purpose for that water given what now becomes of it?
- c. What does the wine steward say about the wine? Who does he credit for the wine? Verse 11 calls this a sign? What is it a sign of?

Day 4 Read John 4:1-42

- 7a. Why do you think the woman comes to the well at the hottest time of the day? Most of the women from the village would have drawn water at morning or evening.
 - b. Given her background why do you think Jesus encountered her at that time? What does it say about Jesus?
- 8a. Jesus and the woman have a conversation about water. Explain the conversation and explain the water that Jesus is offering her.
 - b. What is the woman's testimony to the town in verse 29? And what was the response of the town in verses 39-42?
 - c. Living water and "come see a man who told me everything I have ever done." How has this woman received "living water" given her confession?

Day 5 Read John 9:1-41

- 9a. What is the question that the disciples ask of Jesus about the man born blind? What was Jesus' response?
 - b. How does Jesus go about healing the man? Why do you think he healed him in this way?
- 10a. A long scene plays out where the man is questioned by the Pharisees and the Jews of the town. Each time he is asked about Jesus, his answer keeps changing about what he thinks about Jesus. How does his answer change from Verse 12 to then Verse 17 to Verse 33?
 - b. Finally at the end of the story Jesus confronts the Pharisees. The man has washed. The man has "seen" Jesus. What is the final word on sinfulness and sight and washing that we can glean from this conversation?

Day 6

- 11. Baptisms of repentance, water into wine at banquet feasts, living water offered to sinners, sight restored to the blind through washing. All of these stories use water to make their point. What is water a sign of in these stories?