



# One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand and experience their baptism as enlistment into Christ's fellowship of disciples who are called and commissioned to pass the faith on.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

We were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We belong to the family of God and are inheritors of eternal life. So what? Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this challenge: In baptism you were adopted into the family of God, named and claimed, and sealed with the mark of Christ forever. This is good news! Will you tell others or keep it to yourself? Will you pass on the faith? What's next?

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, Ephesians 4:4-6, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink LL01.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Scan Luther's explanation of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. What happens in baptism according to Luther?

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**1. Do you know what your name means? Do you know who named you and why your name was chosen?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

**2. What words are spoken at baptism in the Lutheran church? Does it matter what words are spoken at a Christian baptism? Why or why not?** If you haven't yet, read your church baptism liturgy together. These are ancient words the church has used over the centuries. The most important thing is to follow Christ's last command to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**3. A friend says, "You can't baptize babies because they are not old enough to repent and accept Jesus." How do you answer?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. In the book of Acts, the very first followers of Jesus baptized entire families. John the Baptist's baptism was one of repentance to prepare for Christ's coming. In Jewish tradition, baby boys were circumcised to be part of the covenant people. In short, baptism is God's act, not ours. God is the giver. We are the receiver.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Adoption:** To take into one's family and raise as one's own child.

**Baptism:** The event in which sinners are washed with water and saved by God's Word as God begins shaping them into followers of Jesus Christ for life.

**Christian:** Someone who believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Inherit:** To receive (property or a title, for example) by legal succession or will.

**Promise:** A declaration assuring that one will or will not do something; a vow.

## F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** Have the group design and send baptismal "birthday cards" to all members of the church who were baptized in the previous year.

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



## PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



## BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!



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