

Youth Teaching Resources

January 10, 2015



A Good Way to Begin — Psalm 147:12-20

Jesus: The Curtain Rises

Of Water and Fire — Luke 3:15-22 (RCL 3:15-17, 21-22)

Of Water and Wine — John 2:1-11

An Old Scroll and a New Mission — Luke 4:14-21

A New Prophet and an Old Response — Luke 4:21-30

www.baptiststoday.org

Subscribe to *Baptists Today* to access the core Bible content for this lesson.

www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

Of Water and Fire

Luke 3:15-22

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION: YOUTH AND THIS LESSON

“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” We all like to be praised. Most of us get the type of smile on our face that we try to hide but we can’t when someone praises us. I’ve found that it is as fun to watch others have the smile come across their face when you heap praise on them. As we minister with our students, we need to heap praise on them as often as we can. We need to celebrate their successes. We need to bring attention when they are being the hands and feet of Christ.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by watching the clip “Delmar’s Baptism” from *O Brother Where Art Thou*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What is unique about the baptisms that happen in this scene?
- 2) What is Delmar’s response to being baptized? How do the others respond to his baptism?
- 3) Do you remember your baptism? What do you remember about the day?
- 4) How does your church celebrate someone’s baptism?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Luke 3:15-22. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON, printed in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What was the difference between the cleansing that John was teaching versus that the Jews would have been accustomed to?
- 2) How is John's message a message of good news?
- 3) What was Herod's response to John's message?
- 4) Why did Jesus choose to be baptized? How was Jesus choosing to be baptized a sign of his humanity?
- 5) What do God's words reveal about Jesus?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in "Digging Deeper" (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide). You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Why would the mikva'ots need running water?
- 2) How does Jesus' baptism story in Luke compare to his baptism story in the other gospels?
- 3) What does the fire represent that John mentions in this passage?
- 4) What does your church do to promote evangelism, social ministry, and confessional praise?
- 5) What did Herod do that would cause John to preach against him?
- 6) Share the different translations that Tony presents of verse 22. Then discuss the different meaning each translation would have for the humanity/divinity of Jesus.

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide): Why did Luke omit a specific reference to John baptizing Jesus?

Transformation

Conclude your session by forming small groups of two and three students. Challenge the small groups to retell the story of Jesus' baptism without looking at the text. When the students have completed their task, encourage them to share their version of the passage and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What does God call us to do in this passage?
- 2) How does the humanity of Jesus help us when we have struggles?
- 3) How is the Spirit of God moving within you now?

Close with a prayer where we remember our own baptisms and give thanks for the Spirit of God that continues to move within us today.