

It would be well to even share the joy that came to your heart when you were baptized and made your decision to follow Jesus all the way.

Present baptism as a very positive, wonderful experience in the life of a Christian. Encourage your students that if they have not already experienced Bible baptism, they will certainly want to plan for the event in the near future.

Response Questions:

1. If it is your desire to be baptized in the near future after the example of your Lord, put a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to be rebaptised in the near future, put a check in Box #2.
3. If you have already been baptized by immersion and it is your desire to reconfirm your baptismal decision, put a check in Box #3.

Be certain to visit anyone who checks Box #1 or Box #2.

This visit would be for the purpose of making certain that they are aware of a baptism that will be coming in the near future.

Let them know that you will be happy to continue to study and pray with them so that they will be ready to follow their Lord in baptism in the near future.

important step to take after a person has accepted Christ as his Saviour and Lord. That's why any of your students who have just recently accepted Christ ought to be thinking about being baptized in the near future. Baptism logically follows the conversion experience.

Make it clear that the purpose of Bible baptism is to show to the world that the person has died to sin, buried the old way of life, and has been resurrected to new life in Christ.

Question 9

This is the most important point in this section of the lesson. Make certain to give it adequate coverage. The main reason for immersion baptism is that it is the only method that properly symbolizes death, burial and resurrection.

You may wish to give a brief history of sprinkling, which came into the Church during the Dark Ages:

During the Middle Ages individuals would put off conversion until their death bed because they felt they shouldn't sin after they were baptized. (Obviously, the Bible does not teach this.) When they felt they were dying, they would call for the priest, "Come quickly! So and so is dying!" The individual would have a death bed repentance with the desire to be baptized.

Since he was too sick to be put under the water, he would then be put on a sheet and water would be poured over him. But that made quite a mess. Then they just poured water over the candidate's head. That also made a mess.

Finally they just sprinkled a little bit of water on his head. Thus sprinkling came into the church through compromise. Even in the Roman Catholic Church they baptized by immersion as late as the tenth century.

In medieval cathedrals throughout Europe one can still see the baptismal fonts where people were baptized by immersion.

Question 10

This question is the main point for emphasis in this section of the lesson. It should be pointed out very clearly to the students that there is no record of infant baptism in the Scriptures.

It is not a biblical practice. The Bible baptized only adults. The reason

was simple. In order to be baptized a person had to meet the qualifications listed in this question: teach, believe, repent.

The teacher should be aware that some groups teach that a person should be baptized in the name of Jesus only, that it is wrong to say "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost" as a person is being baptized.

They quote several New Testament texts which say people should be baptized in the name of Jesus. Most of these groups are Anti-Trinitarian, and therefore they do not want to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, Matthew 28:19, 20 is very clear on the baptismal formula.

Since the other records are merely shortened forms of this major commission, it would seem obvious that the complete commission is found here in Matthew 28:19, 20, and it is only a shortened form of the baptismal formula that we find in these other passages. While this is not a major issue with some, yet it may pose a problem for some people.

The teacher should emphasize that the Scripture is clear in Matthew 28:19-20 and therefore it would not be wrong to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

However, do not bring this issue up unless a student raises the question.

Question 14

Beginning with this question make certain that the discussion of baptism is very positive. Rather than deal with any of the controversial points which you have settled in the previous questions, be sure to talk about the joys of baptism, the thrill of beginning the walk with Christ in the watery grave.

Create an appetite in the minds of your students so that they will want to follow their Lord in Bible baptism.

Question 15

Baptism itself does not save us. Baptism is the natural result of accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. The person who has accepted Him will want to be baptized, not out of necessity but out of privilege.

Question 16

What a privilege for Christians! When they are baptized they join the body of Christ. What a wonderful privilege to be a part of Christ's body.

Question 17

Be sure to make it clear that the Bible indicates that when people are baptized they are baptized into the body of Christ, which is the church.

To most of your students that will simply mean the Christian church in general at this point, and not the specific Adventist church.

You should not try to get them to think that it's any specific church, but let them indeed feel at this point that it is to be a total part of the body of Christians.

Question 18

Again when you talk about the church, talk about it as the loving, caring family of God on earth, for truly that is what the church is and should be.

Question 19

The emphasis on rebaptism on Example 1 should be that the person has learned significant new truth. This does not mean that every time a person learns a new truth he should be rebaptised.

He should take this step only when he learns significant new truth that makes a major change in his life.

Question 20

While people should be urged not to put off the decision to be baptized, it would be well to remind them at this point that before baptism there are three things they need to do: believe, repent, and be taught. Thus the teacher should encourage them to continue to study and to learn the Word of God as a preparation for the time when they will be baptized.

The teacher should again talk positively about the experience of baptism.