

Lesson No. (20)

Epiphany - Baptising Children

References

Matthew 3:13-18.

Notes for Servants

- ★ Through baptism, we obtain salvation, purification, justification, new birth, and membership in the body of Christ.
- ★ You were buried with Christ in baptism, then you cannot take off your new spiritual body to put on the body of sin again.
- ★ Think how Jesus was meek to let John baptize Him. Do you humble yourself before God who told us to learn from Him whom is meek and humble?

Objectives

General: Teach the children that the baptism is becoming members in the body of Christ.

Specific:

The children will be able to ...

- A. Understand that by baptism we become Christians.
- B. Learn that Abouna baptized them when they were young.
- C. Know that Abouna put them inside the baptismal font.

Bible Verse

"Be baptized everyone."

(Act 2:38)

Teaching Aids

1. A visit to the Baptismal font.
 2. A vessel containing water, a doll, a towel, white clothes, a girdle.
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Instruction

- (1) Review last week's lesson.
- (2) Who remembers the verse?
- (3) Remind the children about the church occasions for the coming week.
- (4) Emphasize the fact that baptism should be through immersion.

Story Time

Miriam and Marcos used to rejoice on Sundays because on that day they go to church in the early morning and enjoy listening to the Mass. But today, they are much happier as their father, Michael has told them that their youngest brother John will be baptised to become a Christian like them. Marcos' mother prepared the white clothes which John will be dressed in after he has been baptised.

In the early morning, the family went to church, to the baptism font. The priest prayed to sanctify the water. He consecrated it with Chrism (Myroon). Mother looked to the west, held John in her left hand and said, "I renounce you, O Satan, all your evil deeds and all your wicked powers." This is a declaration of our enmity to the devil who wants us to do evil.

Then, she looked towards the east and carried John on her right arm and said, "I acknowledge thee, O Christ my Lord, and all your sincere laws and all your commands, deeds and work that give life." This is the manifestation of Christian faith.

The priest immersed John three times in the baptism font saying: "John, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Then, he took the Chrism bottle (Myroon) and anointed John 36 times - the head - the chest - the heart - the back - the hands - the top of the shoulders - and the palm of his hand and the back of his hand, then he anointed the lower half of the body saying: "John, I anoint you with the Holy Oil in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." After having anointed John, the priest prayed "May you be blessed of the heavenly creatures, and the heavenly angels", then he breathed into his face saying:
"Receive the Holy Spirit and be a pure vessel through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Then, the priest dressed John in white clothes and tied his neck with a red ribbon called a girdle which refers to the power and deep joy that John has become a soldier in the army of salvation which belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, mother is considered John's godmother who is responsible for handling John the teachings of the church and for teaching him to take part in the church sacraments. All the members of the family received communion with John then they went back home full of joy because John was baptised.

Discussion

- 1 - Follow up the story by talking about it with the children.
- 2 - Continue the discussion while they do the activity.

Learning Activities

Activity Sheet.