Baptism Class

Name ____________________________
Baptism Instructions

1. Meet in the prayer room at 6:45 p.m. dressed for baptism. You can change beforehand; restrooms are adjacent to the choir room.

2. Clothing:
   - Please wear dark T-shirts, dress shirts and dark pants or jeans.
   - Please wear shirts without printed slogans or logos.
   - Please do not wear shorts or sleeveless tops.
   - Remember to bring a complete change of dry clothes.
   - Towels will be provided for you.
   - Bring a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

3. Remember to bring your written Testimony.

Baptism Class

Preparation for Baptism Syllabus

Session #1
- The Biblical Basis for Baptism
- Explanation of testimony worksheet
- Before next session
  1. Complete “Application for Baptism” and bring to next session.
  2. Write out your Personal Testimony (per guidelines on “Testimony Worksheet”). Bring it to the next session and be prepared to read through it.

Session #2
- Return completed application
- Review first draft of written testimonies individually.

Session #3
- Read final draft of written testimonies to class
- Set dates for baptisms
- Instructions for baptism service

Baptism Sunday
- Bring your written testimony
- Meet at time/place specified for information and orientation for baptism service.
- Instructions on where to change; where to sit before and after your baptism.
The First Step Towards Baptism: Excerpts from Romans

God's Character
1. Romans 1:20 As_________________, God’s eternal _____________ and _________________ nature are clearly seen.
2. Romans 5:7-8 God has demonstrated His ________________ for us.
3. Romans 2:5-6 Because God is also ________________, He will give to each person according to what he/she deserves.

Our Condition
4. Romans 3:23 Each one of us - all - have ________________, and _______________ _______________ of God's standards.
5. Romans 2:14-15 Our attempts at doing good show that God’s laws are written on our _______________ and our own _______________ confirm our guilt.
6. Romans 6:23 The Bible says that what we deserve (wages) because of our sin is ________, or eternal separation from God.

Sample Testimony
Hi, my name is Carl Anderson

As long as I can remember I have always had a fear of God and the desire to pray to Him. I thought about heaven and hell, wanting to go to heaven. As a young teen I went to church. After a few years I felt it was not relevant to my life and stopped going. When I was 22 years old, I was invited to a Christmas concert by the person who is now my wife. This church was different. For the first time in my life I heard that my sin had separated me from God and from going to heaven. They also said that Jesus Christ died for my sins. I knew I was a sinner and this gift sounded too good to be true. I immediately prayed and asked Christ to be my Savior and Lord. I spent the following year beginning to understand the commitment I made. The Lord has been helping me to grow in my faith since then. He has taught me through the preaching and study of His Word and fellowship with other believers. I count it a privilege to serve Jesus Christ.
The Biblical Basis for Baptism (cont.)

C. An indication of our ____________ to Christ.

Being baptized is an act of obedience to His commands and submission to His Lordship. Jesus always qualified a true love for Him by a willingness to obey what He said (Luke 6:46-49; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 5:2-3).

D. A look forward to our ____________ with Christ.

In baptism, a person says, “I’m going somewhere.” The believer has an ultimate hope of being with Christ (Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 3:2-3).

The First Step Towards Baptism: Excerpts from Romans (cont.)

God’s Gift

7. Romans 8:3-4 But God sent His own ____________, Christ Jesus, to be a ____________ ____________ to pay the price for our sin so that God’s righteous requirements would be ____________ met on our behalf.

8. Romans 5:6-9 God’s loving plan - sending Christ at just the _______ _______ ____________ is all the more remarkable because while we were still ________________, Christ gave His our life for ________________.

Personal Application

9. Romans 5:1-2 We become justified - i.e., made just as if we never sinned - through ____________, and our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ is by ____________ (see also Ephesians 2:8-9).

10. Romans 12:1-2 Biblical faith is a heartfelt, thankful response (an offering of ourselves as a ____________ ____________)...to Jesus’ sacrificial death in our place (in view of God’s ____________) - not getting what we deserve)...that is life changing (be ____________ by the renewing of your mind). [See also Luke 14:25-33]
The Biblical Basis for Baptism (cont.)

III. What does baptism mean?

We might first say what it does NOT mean. IT IS NOT WASHING AWAY OF SINS. Sin cannot be washed away by water; rather, “the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

NOR IS BAPTISM THE MEANS OF BECOMING A Christian. The only way we do so is by grace through faith in the work of Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7), not by having a ritual performed upon us.

So, what does baptism mean? Four things:

A. A __________________________ in Christ (Act 2:38, 41).

Baptism is an ________________ and ________________ sign of a ________________ and ________________ change that God has already worked in a believer’s heart. Significantly, baptism always follows upon the personal confession of one’s faith. This explains why we do not practice infant baptism, as a tiny baby cannot have placed his/her faith in Christ.

B. An expression of our ________________ with Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

Baptism illustrates our spiritual union and identification with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that we are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Being immersed in water symbolizes having died to our sin; and being raised out of the water that we have been raised to a brand new life in Christ. **Again:** salvation is NOT CONVEYED in baptism; it simply illustrates that spiritual transaction which has already taken place.
The Biblical Basis for Baptism (cont.)

II. Baptism in the New Testament

A. John the Baptist - a tangible link between the Old and New Testaments (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 11:7-14). John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, and baptized upon one’s profession of ________________ (Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:2-5; Luke 3:3-8; John 1:29-31).

B. The Lord Jesus Christ submitted Himself to baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34). Why did Jesus come to be baptized? To fulfill the righteous requirements of God (Matthew 3:15). It was an act of:

1. ________________ - As Messiah with the people He came to deliver
2. ________________ - A public statement of His dedication to fully do the will of His Father. Also, as a foreshadowing of His death and resurrection which would make salvation possible.

C. Jesus authorized His disciples to start baptizing (John 3:22-26). This baptism was a baptism of repentance and faith in Christ Himself (John 3:28-36).

D. Jesus Himself did not baptize (John 4:1-2). Why? If Jesus had baptized, it may have directed the focus from the ________________ of baptism to ________________ was doing the baptizing.

E. Christ commanded the church to baptize (Matthew 28:18-20). This was an ________________ not an ________________. Those who are made members of the Church by faith in Christ are themselves to be the recipients of baptism.

F. The pattern of the New Testament Church.
   The consistent practice of the early Church was that as people heard the Word preached, they responded in faith, they confessed that belief publicly by being baptized, and became part of the life of the local body of believers. If we would obey our Lord and conform our practice to the New Testament pattern, we must do the same.
Baptism Class

The First Step Towards Baptism: Excerpts from Romans (cont.)

New Life in Christ

12. Romans 6:11-13  As Christians, we are ____________ to sin and ____________ to God. As God (not sin) reigns in our hearts, He calls us to become instruments of ____________.

13. Romans 12:4-6  In Christ we who are ____________ form ____________ body, and are expected to use our individual gifts in serving others.

14. Romans 8:16-17  Since as Christians we are God’s ____________, we have the promise of eternal life with Him as ____________ of God and ____________ with Christ.

The Change Summarized

15. 2 Corinthians 5:17  The ______ has gone, the ______ has come.

16. Ephesians 5:8  You were once ____________, but now you are ____________.

17. Colossians 2:13  You were ____________, God made you ______ ____________.

18. John 9:25  I was ____________, now I ____________ ____________.

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The Biblical Basis for Baptism

I. Background

The New Testament records for us two ordinances instituted by Jesus Christ Himself - The Lord’s Supper and Baptism. The significance of these ordinances are emphasized by the fact that they are each clear commands to the church, and therefore, apply to all who believe.

Each ordinance has a material element: in Communion, bread and wine; in Baptism, water. In each ordinance, the material element distinguishes it from its spiritual reality - the material element of each points to a spiritual reality, distinct from and more significant that itself.

As material signs they are ____________, ____________, and ____________.

As spiritual realities they are ____________, ____________, and ____________.