

Questions / Answers

1. What does 'to repent' mean?
To turn away from sin and start to walk in God's ways.
2. Give two examples of people who repented and changed their lives.
Paul and Zacchaeus.
3. What are the wages we deserve in God's sight?
Death.
4. What is the great gift that God wants to give us?
Eternal life.
5. How has Jesus made it possible for us to be saved?
By giving his perfect life on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven.
6. How do we become associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus when we are baptised?
We are buried under water, as Jesus was buried when he died. We rise up out of the water to new life as Jesus was raised from the dead.
7. Why must we be baptised by full immersion?
Because this is how we act out the death and resurrection.
8. Why is christening not true baptism?
A baby cannot believe or repent or promise to serve God.
9. What must you do after you have been baptised?
Start a new life to love and serve God for the rest of your life.
10. Whose family do you belong to when you have been baptised?
The family of God.

Memory verses

Romans 6:3—5 1 John 1:9 1 Peter 3:21

Discussion

Discuss how baptism should change your life. How would this affect your behaviour with: your family, your friends, your work/school, your time, your prayers, your goals in life, your example to others?

Writing

Draw a diagram or write about how baptism associates us with the death and resurrection of Jesus.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 44 Repentance and baptism

READING Romans 6:3—5; Acts 9:1 –16; Luke 19:1—10; 1 Peter 3:21

LESSON

Peter told people in Jerusalem, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins." To repent means to turn away from sin. It means that you have been walking in the wrong direction. You need to turn away from sinning and walking in your own way and start to walk in God's way.

Turning away from sin and turning to God is the best and most important decision you will ever make in your life. Repentance has a powerful effect on your feelings, your conscience, your thoughts and your whole life.

When Adam and Eve sinned they felt guilty and tried to hide from God. If you repent, God forgives everything. God will wipe out your sin and you can start again. The burden of sin and guilt is taken away forever.

Repenting is deciding to change your life. We have examples in the Bible of people who repented and changed their lives. The apostle Paul was persecuting Christians. He did not believe that Jesus was really the Son of God. When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul realised how wrong he had been, and he was very sorry for what he had done. He repented and changed his life and spent the rest of his life preaching the Gospel.

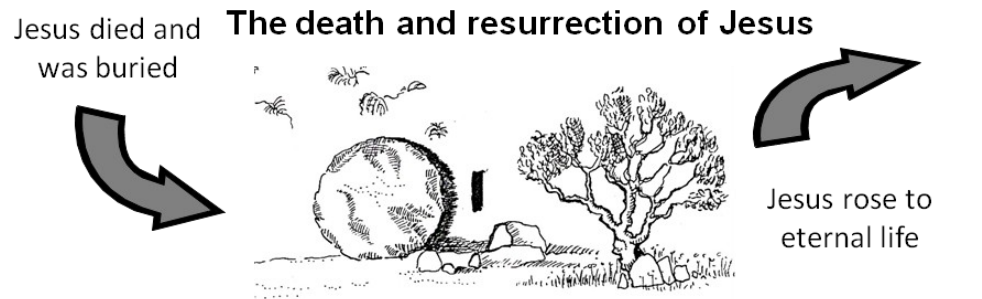
Zacchaeus was a Tax Collector. He was greedy, selfish and a cheat. But when Jesus went to his house he repented. Zacchaeus was so ashamed of his sins that he changed his life. He gave half his money to the poor and he repaid four times the amount to everyone he had cheated.

To repent means to really change your life. This is often hard to do, but it is

We all have things in our lives that are wrong. There are things which we find hard to change. We might have a bad temper or maybe we keep telling lies although we feel bad about it. Repenting is keeping on trying to change. The most important thing we need to do is to ask God for help. If we really want to change God will help us.

Repentance is the first step for anyone who wants to be saved. We have to feel a real need for God in our lives. This must come from our heart. We cannot earn salvation by anything we do ourselves. The only wages we deserve in God's sight are those we earn as sinners. That is death. But God wants to give us eternal life. This is His great gift to us. God has promised eternal life to those who repent and are baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. We must choose to follow Jesus as his disciples. We must decide this for ourselves. God calls us to believe the Gospel, to repent and be baptised. But He will not force us to do it.

The struggle between good and evil has been going on since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Jesus has won the battle for us. He conquered sin in his life. We can only be saved because Jesus gave his perfect life on the cross so that we can have our sins forgiven. Jesus died to save us from our sins. When we are baptised we become associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus. We act out a death and a resurrection to new life.



We associate ourselves with the death of Jesus by baptism



Baptism is full immersion in water. This is a symbol of being buried. We confess that we are worthy to die because of our sins. Being buried in water is a symbol of dying with Christ. As Jesus came out of the grave so we rise from the water to a new life in Jesus.

Baptism is a kind of washing. It is not a washing of our dirty skin. It is the washing away of our sins. We can see when our skin is dirty, but we cannot see when our sins have made us dirty inside. When we come out of the water after baptism we cannot see that our sins have been washed away. But this is how God sees us. When we have been baptised, He sees us as people who are clean inside, without sin.

Many churches christen or 'baptise' babies by sprinkling them with water. This is not Bible baptism. This is not acceptable to God. Before being baptised a person must believe in Jesus and God's power to forgive sins. He must believe in God's coming Kingdom. He must repent and promise to try his best to serve God for the rest of his life. A baby cannot do any of these things.

Deciding to be baptised is the most important decision anyone can ever make. It is a life long commitment. It needs to be thought about very carefully. It needs to be your own decision.

Before baptism a person needs to understand and believe the true teaching of the Bible. Then there must be repentance of our sins and a desire to love and serve God for the rest of our lives.

Baptism is the beginning of a new life. The old life has died in the water and the person who has been baptised comes out to begin a new life as one of God's children. We still sin after we have been baptised, but we are now His children and He forgives us through Jesus when we confess our sins. A baptised believer has to fight against their sins and try to obey God's commands. There are changes to be made in the new life. We have to struggle every day to live to please God. But we have a loving Father to help us and Jesus has showed us his perfect example.

When you are baptised you join the family of God. You can enjoy having a loving Father who cares for you and guides you. You can look forward to eternal life in His Kingdom. God has told us that He wants us to be there.