Baptism Youth Group Lesson: Taking the Plunge
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Describe a time you took a deep dive or “cannonball” into a pool

Ask youth to share their experiences taking the plunge: Did they jump right in? Were they a little scared? Did they belltyflop?!

Big Question: You may be wondering what does bellyflopping have to do with baptism?

Big Idea: In Baptism we take the plunge into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ

Scripture Reference:

1. Big Family: When we take the plunge of Baptism we join the one Big Family of Faith. Disciples of Jesus Christ join God’s family though baptism. Baptism is God’s invitation to symbolize our commitment to God and God’s commitment to us. It’s open to people of all nations (scripture reference) making the family of faith diverse, big and beautiful!
2. Big Commission: In each of our families we have many different chores and responsibilities? What are some of the chores or responsibilities you do in your family? In God’s family, we as disciples are called by God to GO: to boldly share the story of our baptism, our faith and invite others to the same.
3. Big Challenge: Take 15 minutes and Share the story of your baptism- as a couple of youth to also share. How are we living out this BIG responsibility?
4. Big Promise: As we take the big plunge into baptism- we have one BIG promise to hold on to: Jesus will be with us always! There’s no fine print here- God is promising that as we go out into the world and share our faith- God will be right there!

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for inviting us to take the plunge in baptism. For loving us so much that you invite us to relationship with you through the gift of baptism. In you we join the one big family of faith and we are grateful. Help us to live up to and live out your Great Big Commission to share our baptism and faith with the world. Sometimes Oh God, sharing faith seems scary, and awkward but we rely on your Big Promise: that you will be with us always. Fot this Oh God we give thanks and take the plunge with you! In Jesus name, Amen.

Baptism Youth Group Lesson: Just add water

Object Lesson: Instant Oatmeal package and hot water

Anybody ever eat oatmeal for breakfast? It’s one of my favorites for one reason: It’s FAST! You just add water and instantly you’ve got oatmeal!

Big Question: Is Baptism just like instant oatmeal? Do we add a little water and instantly we’re Christians?

Big Idea: Baptism is not a quick faith fix. Baptism is an outward symbol of God’s continuous transformation of our lives.

Scripture Reference: Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation (Philippians 2:12)

1. What’s happening in this text? Paul is writing to the community of Christians in Phillipi. Like us, they are trying to figure this faith thing out. Paul teaches us and them a very big lesson about baptism and our faith in general: its not an event it’s a process. We continue to work out our faith in commitment, obedience and through God’s grace. While Baptism is a momentous occasion in the life of a believer- we continue to grow in our faith long after the water has dried.
2. In other words- baptism is not like instant oatmeal- where we just add water and poof: we’re perfect Christians. So then-What does change through baptism? Through baptism we are formally inducted unto the family of faith (remember that from the last lesson?) But what happens in families?
3. Take 15 minutes and ask students to share a one of their favorite memories of “grace being given” within their families. The leader may share a big mistake they made and how their family loved them and supported them anyway. In Families, we make mistakes, we disappoint each other, we correct each other and in the midst of it all: We love each other. God’s baptism makes us one of God’s daughters and sons whom God loves through “instant” grace, forgiveness and correction.
4. Baptism connects us instantly to a community of faith. In the United Methodist Church congregations commit to growing in faith with those whom are baptized. Immediately through baptism we are connected to other mothers. Fathers and brothers and sisters who will grow in their faith along side us.

Closing Prayer: Holy God, we love and honor the rite of passage called baptism. We recognize that when we’re baptized we don’t become perfect- but we become yours. Thank you for loving us as we continue to grow in our faith- showing us where we’ve come up short, forgiving us when we’ve been wrong and empowering us to keep trying. While we know baptism is not an instant fix- we also know that we are instantly connected to you and each other through it. For this Oh God- we give you praise and thanksgiving. In Jesus Name, Amen.