

The Holy Spirit Gives Faith Through Baptism

The Millers had a new baby, and Maggie was very excited. Now she was a big sister! Since Mom and Dad brought baby Ian home from the hospital, Maggie had been helping take care of him. Mom always let her help with his bath. After Ian was wrapped in his warm blanket, Maggie sometimes held him on the couch with Mom.

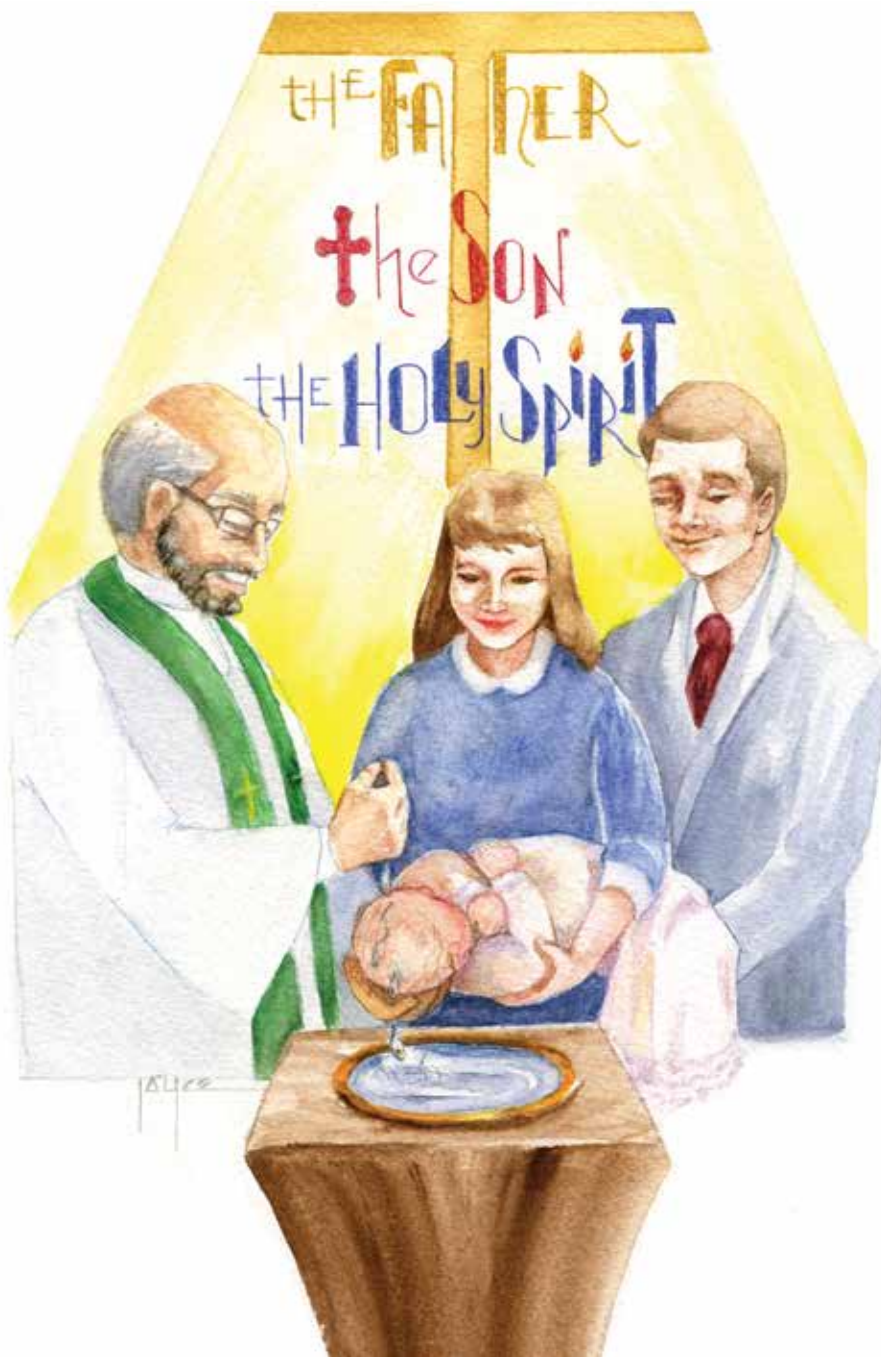
One evening as the family sat around the dinner table, Dad told them that on Sunday the pastor would baptize Ian at church. The children started asking a lot of questions about baptism and why it is important. James, who was older and in **confirmation**, said that his class had just started learning about baptism.

“Baptism is bringing the baby to Jesus,” James declared.

“Yes, it is that,” Dad responded, “but baptism is much more than asking Jesus to bless a baby. In baptism, God makes a child His own by His grace through the water and the Word.”

“We have brought all of you children to be baptized in response to God’s command and invitation,” continued Mom. “Ian will be baptized in the name of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He will receive the gifts of forgiveness, faith, salvation, and the Holy Spirit, just as each of you have.

Dad reached for his Bible and read Matthew



28:19–20. Then he explained, “Jesus calls us to disciple all people through baptism and the teaching of the Word of God.”

“The verse I remember most about



baptism,” Mom said, “is I Peter 3:21. Verse 20 shows how God saved Noah and his family through the water which carried the ark that Noah had built. The waters of the flood brought death and destruction to unbelievers, but the same water saved Noah and his family who were on the ark. Then verse 21 says, “Corresponding to that [the water that saved Noah], baptism now saves you.”

James interrupted. “Pastor told us that Baptism is called a **sacrament**. Do you know what a sacrament is?”

Mom smiled and said, “Why don’t you tell us, James.”

“Okay,” James replied. “A sacrament is an act of God in which He uses something visible to give something invisible.”

“You’re right, James.” Dad went on to explain, “Baptism is a means through which God gives His invisible grace to us. The water is the visible part we can see and touch in baptism. But we must remember that without the Word of God, the water is simply water. It

is God’s Word through the water that works salvation and faith in a child.”

Children are very precious to God. He planned for you to be born; He chooses you to be His. Jesus told His disciples in Mark 10 that He wants little children to come to Him. In baptism, God puts His name upon you and you become His child. He promises to always take care of you, delivering you from sin, death, and the power of Satan. He promises that you will live with Him for all eternity.

After a child is baptized, he must be taught the Word of God and learn to pray so that his faith and love for Jesus will continue to grow. Without the Word and prayer, the faith God has given a child will not remain and **thrive**. The child may little by little lose his faith and love for Jesus.

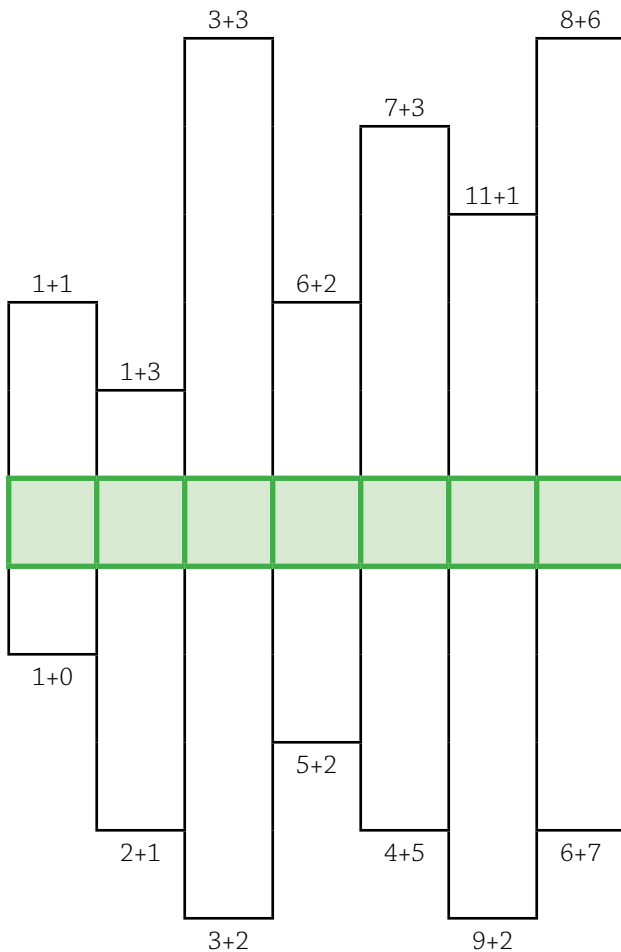
Faith is a gift from God. In baptism, you received faith, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit is living in you, He will continue His work in your life, keeping you close to Jesus through His Word.

ACTIVITY 1

How's Your Math?

Solve each math problem and match your answers with the numbers in the code box.

Then copy the letters from the code into the correct spaces in the puzzle, going from top to bottom. Leave the shaded boxes blank. The missing letters in the shaded boxes make a word from today's lesson. Can you figure it out by deciding which letter is missing to complete the words going down?



Code

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Y = 1 | H | F | E |
| | O | O = 10 | N = 13 |
| B = 2 | L = 6 | R | T |
| A | Y | G | |
| | S | | S |
| I | | W | A |
| T = 3 | E = 7 | O = 11 | C = 14 |
| H | R | R | R |
| | | D | A |
| F = 4 | W = 8 | | |
| | A | G | |
| I | | O = 12 | |
| R = 5 | V | D | |
| I | E = 9 | | |
| T | S | | |

After solving the puzzle, fill in the blanks below with the correct words. Each word from the puzzle will be used once.

_____ Ian was going to be baptized in the name of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the _____. _____ is a _____ given to us by God. When _____ is used with _____, God _____ sin and gives _____.

ACTIVITY 2

What Does That Mean?

Review the meaning of these words and phrases.
Write the correct letter in each blank.



- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. Sacrament | A. The good news that Jesus died to save us from our sins. |
| _____ 2. Gospel | B. God makes a child His own by His grace through the water and the Word. |
| _____ 3. Creed | C. Belief and trust in God. |
| _____ 4. Means of grace | D. Teaches about the work of the Holy Spirit. |
| _____ 5. Law | E. Being certain that your sins are forgiven. |
| _____ 6. Triune God | F. Born of water and the Spirit. |
| _____ 7. Sanctifier | G. An act of God in which He uses something visible with His Word to give invisible grace. |
| _____ 8. Baptism | H. A statement of what you believe. |
| _____ 9. Third Article of Sanctification | I. Ways God gives us His grace. |
| _____ 10. Born again | J. The part of God's Word that shows us our sin. |
| _____ 11. Faith | K. The Holy Spirit who makes us holy and day by day makes us more and more like Christ. |
| _____ 12. Assurance of salvation | L. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |

Memory Verse

Baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

—I Peter 3:21

Enrichment Verse: Mark 10:14b

Catechism

The Third Article of Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit; . . .

What does this mean?

. . . enlightened me with His gifts, . . .

