

A Swim and a Snack?

For some children, their first perceptions of baptism and communion are simply that – a swim and a snack! Life Steps Resources has developed Baptism and Communion Packs that address issues surrounding children

and their understanding and education in the areas of baptism and communion. They explain the basic framework that guides the decisions as to how and when a child should take communion or follow the Lord in baptism. They view it as a continuum that moves from observation, inclusion, involvement and then to participation.

The packet also includes two separate four lesson programs written by Laura Kalmar for children ages 6 to 12 dealing with baptism and with communion.

THE BOOK ON BAPTISM COVERS THESE FOUR TOPICS:

• Lesson 1 - Make a Choice

Baptism shows that a person has chosen to follow Jesus.

• Lesson 2 - What's the Meaning of All This?

Baptism is a symbol. It shows that a person's life has changed.

• Lesson 3 - Follow the Leader

People imitate Jesus' example in becoming baptized.

• Lesson 4 - Show and Tell

Baptism gives people a chance to show and tell others what they believe.

THE MATERIAL ON COMMUNION COVERS THESE FOUR TRUTHS:

• Lesson 1 - Remember When

The Lord's Supper helps us remember Jesus.

• Lesson 2 - Jesus Is Among Us

Jesus' Spirit is with us when we share the Lord's Supper.

• Lesson 3 - A Great Big Thank You

The Lord's Supper is a time to say 'Thank You' to God.

• Lesson 4 - It's a Party!

The Lord's Supper is a celebration.

Here is a sample of some of the ideas presented to bring communion to light. You create a skit that features someone who is very forgetful. Before the drama begins, you are to tie pieces of string on all the person's fingers and stick Post-It notes around the stage.

"The character enters and says, "I was supposed to remember something, but I just don't know what it was. These pieces of string and these notes are meant to jog my memory, but they aren't helping. I am so forgetful! Maybe I was supposed to call my Grandma. (Shake head.) Maybe I was supposed to finish my homework. (Shake head.) Maybe I was supposed to feed the cat. (Shake head.) Wait a minute! Now I remember! I was supposed to go to the mall and buy more string and note paper. Oh, dear. Sometimes it's not easy to remember things!"

The complete packet is available from Life Steps Resources for \$35.00 plus shipping and handling and can be ordered **online through www.mbconf.ca/cem/resources or by calling (519) 579-5824.**

Stepping Through the Process

Did you know that potatoes and baptism have something in common? At Sherwood Park Alliance Church, boys and girls play 'The Potato Game' during the children's baptism course. The game demonstrates how special we are to Jesus and how He knows and loves each one of us individually.

The game is part of a workbook approach designed to guide children who are considering baptism. Part of the process is having children watch a water baptism in the church and they must have their parent's permission to take this step of faith. The baptismal course is a half day course and is offered twice a year. Using simple Scripture quotes and fill-in-the-blank exercises, the children investigate what baptism is and how to prepare for it. Children are encouraged to ask questions and to examine their hearts to see if they are ready to take this step of commitment.

Each child gets to choose which pastor they would like to have participate in their baptism and our Children's Ministry Pastor, Ruth Mitchell, meets with each child one-on-one. Pastor Ruth was driving one little 8 year old girl home from a donut shop after discussing her decision to be baptized. Ruth asked the little girl how she could pray for her and after making several requests, she turned to Ruth and said, "And how can I pray for you, Pastor Ruth?" That little girl has made another step!

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