



# Milestone 7

## Exploring the Sacrament of Baptism

### Parent/Child Activities for before Milestone Study Sessions Week 1: January 12

Before you begin, please note:

Wondering questions are ways to allow people to think, feel and put themselves in the story. There are no right or wrong answers in response to wondering questions.

The Catechism questions are written in a question and answer form for easy learning and reference. They provide good wording as we talk with children.

### Conversation starters:

**Wondering Question:** I wonder what water activities your family likes to do?

Talk about how your family uses and enjoys water as you and your child prepare for the first session on the Sacrament of Baptism.

Use the language from the *Belonging to God: A first Catechism*, c 1998 PCUSA as you talk with your child.

### Catechism Questions

**Question 1. Who are you?** - *I am a child of God.*

1 John 3:1 "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God"

**Question 2. What does it mean to be a child of God?** - *That I belong to God, who loves me.*

1 Cor. 3:23 "You belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God."

**Question 3. What makes you a child of God?** - *Grace. God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.*

Eph. 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God--not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

**Question 4. Don't you have to be good for God to love you?** - *No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.*

Rom. 5:8 "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

**Question 5. How do you thank God for this gift of love?** - *I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.*

Matt. 22:37 "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'"

**Question 6. How do you love God?** - *By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created. swear."*

Ps. 95:6 "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

**Question 7. What did God create?** - *God created all that is, seen and unseen.*

Gen. 1:1, 31 "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

**Question 41. What is a sacrament?** - *A sacrament is a special act of Christian worship which uses visible signs to present God's grace for us in Jesus Christ. We believe that two sacraments were given by Jesus: baptism and the Lord's Supper.*

Mark 1:9-11 "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'"

# Milestone 7

Exploring the Sacrament of Baptism

## Parent/Child Activities for before Milestone Study Sessions Week 2: January 19

Before you begin, please note:

The reformed church has two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's supper. These two rituals are ones that Jesus participated in and ones he commanded us to do: Matt. 28: 19 "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." and Luke 22:14 "Do this in remembrance of me.")

As a family you might want to watch a movie clip on the [baptism of Jesus](#). It comes from the movie *The Miracle Maker*, a Claymation movie about the miracles of Jesus, c 1999. Use it to begin your conversation about baptism

**Follow Up Question:** I wonder what it means to you to say that you are created in God's image?

### Conversation starters:

**Wondering Question:** I wonder why water is used as a visible sign in the sacrament of baptism?

**Wondering Question:** I wonder how Jesus felt when he heard God's voice say he was the beloved son of God.

**Looking ahead:** Share with our child the story of the day of their baptism. Tell them who was there, which pastor baptized them, what happened, etc. If your child has not yet been baptized, ask them to imagine what that day in the future might look like. Who would you like to invite to be at your baptism? What pastor would you ask to baptize you? Etc.

Use the language from the *Belonging to God: A first Catechism*, c 1998 PCUSA as you talk with your child.

### Catechism Questions

**Question 9. What does it mean that we are made in God's image?** – *It means we are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom and love.*

Matt. 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

**Question 41. What is a sacrament?** – *A sacrament is a special act of Christian worship which uses visible signs to present God's grace for us in Jesus Christ. We believe that two sacraments were given by Jesus: baptism and the Lord's Supper.*

**Question 42. What is baptism?** – *Through baptism I am adopted and welcomed into God's family. In the water of baptism I share in the dying and rising of Jesus, who washes away my sins. I am made one with him, and with all who are joined to him in the church.*

Rom. 6:3-4 "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

1 Cor. 6:11 "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

**Question 43. Why are you baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?**

*Because of the command Jesus gave to his disciples. After he was raised from the dead, he appeared to them, saying: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).*

Matt. 28:16-20 "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

**Question 44. What is the meaning of this name ?** – *It is the name of the Holy Trinity. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God in three persons. We worship God in this mystery.*

2 Cor. 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

## Follow Up

1. As a family, read Matt. 3:13-17, inviting family members to listen for something new in the story.

I wonder what new things you heard in the story of Jesus' baptism?

I wonder how Jesus felt to hear a voice from heaven call him Beloved?

2. Ask your child to show you how to draw the Triquetra- a symbol of the Trinity.

3. As a family list all the names and images of God you can.

I wonder which name/image has the most meaning for you?

### To go Deeper:

invite each family member to choose one name or image of God and use it in a sentence prayer as part of your family prayer time.

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## Before the Milestone Celebration - February 2nd

I wonder what it means to say that you are a part of God's family?

I wonder to what communities you belong?

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## Following the Milestone Celebration

Reread the book Hey God, What is Baptism?

I wonder what it felt like to touch the water in the baptism font?

I wonder how it felt to receive a blessing and be stamped "God's Property?"

I wonder what it means to you that you are a child of God?

I wonder what you want to say to God about being God's child?