

Baptism in a Bag

A fun set of activities for families to explore the theme of baptism at home or while they are on vacation.

Objectives:

- To give families resources to use together to explore the sacrament of baptism and introduce them to the Five Gifts of Discipleship
- To help families live out their faith in easy and fun ways.

Audience: Families with preschool and elementary children

Duration: The activity ideas are flexible. Choose what you think will work best for your situation. Most activities will only take a few minutes each day.

Materials/Preparation Needed:

Materials Needed:

- Name Badge Insert Refills on which to print cards (the card backs included with this resource were formatted for Avery #5390)
- Large Ziploc bag or other type of bag for each family to hold cards. It should be small enough so they can easily throw it in a suitcase or car.
- Some blank notecards (optional)
- ELCA Good Gifts bank (optional)

Preparation Needed:

- Go through the suggested activities below and determine which ones you will include on cards for each “Baptism in a Bag” set.
- Type up the activities so that they fit on the Name Badge Inserts. A sample has been done for you.
- Run off the “Baptism in a Bag” card backs on one side of the inserts. Turn and run the activity instructions on the other side. (Copy one before you do all of them to make sure they are formatted correctly!)
- Type instructions for families.
- Assemble each Ziploc bag with instructions, a set of cards and any other items needed. Make enough for the families in your ministry.



Lesson/Event:

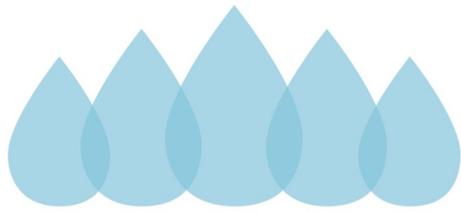
A. Introduction:

1. Think about how you want to use Baptism in a Bag. Do you want to use it as a take home resource after studying a unit on baptism? Is it something that you can send home with families to use in the summer? One possibility is to have a water themed event, use one card activity with everyone and then send the rest home.
2. Write up instructions for families to use with the cards. Sample directions:
 - a. Each week, have a family member (starting with the youngest one first), draw a random card from the bag. Read it aloud and discuss how and when to participate in the activity. You can put the card aside until all the cards have been used or replace the card in the bag to draw out again at another time.
 - b. Have a bible handy or use a bible app to read the verses or stories indicated on some of the cards.

B. Activities: Use the sample list below to get you started. You may have lots of other ideas!

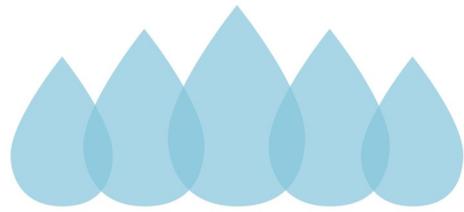
1. Dance in the rain (as long as there are no thunderstorms!). Talk about how God sends the rain to nourish and cleanse the earth. How does your baptism nourish and clean you? Thank God for your baptism!
2. Float in a swimming pool, lake, or ocean. Feel how the water supports you. How does it make you feel that God loves you and made you part of his family through baptism?
3. As you wash your face or take a bath or shower today, remember your baptism. Say to yourself, "(Name), you are a blessed child of God." Share with your family how that makes you feel.
4. One of the gifts of our baptism is "proclaiming the good news of God through what you say and do." This week, before people leave the house (or hotel) in the morning, make the sign of the cross on their forehead with water and share this blessing or another "(Name), child of God, may the love of Jesus fill your heart and overflow to those around you."
5. Blow bubbles and use them to send prayers up to God. Blow some bubbles, say a short prayer and repeat. End with a loud "Amen." Or drop a pebble into a still body of water. As the water ripples out, say a prayer. Repeat.
6. One of the gifts of baptism is "living among God's faithful people" (like your family). This week, end each day with a blessing before you go to bed. Make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead and say, "(Name), child of God, Jesus loves you and so do we."
7. This week, share highs and lows at the dinner table and some place that you saw God that day. Conclude with a prayer for each other.
8. Another gift of baptism is "reading the word of God." This week, read a water story—the Story of Creation found in Genesis 1:1-2:4. Draw pictures or act out the seven days of creation. Water gives life to all living things. How does the water of baptism give us life?
9. Read the water story of Noah and the Flood found in Genesis 7:1-8:22. Water was used to cleanse the earth, but God saved Noah and his family. He then made a promise not to destroy the earth again and set the rainbow in the sky to seal his promise. Look for rainbows this week in the sky or other places. Share what you find.

10. Read the water story of Moses and the Red Sea in Exodus 14: 1-30. How did God save the Israelites? How does God save us?
11. Read the water story of the Baptism of Jesus in Mark 1: 4-11. How does the Spirit of God appear? We frequently use a dove to represent the Holy Spirit and baptism. What other symbols do we use for baptism? What does the voice of God say? God is pleased with you also. As a family, go around in a circle and name one or two characteristics of each person that God would like.
12. Show others that God cares for them too. Ask your server at a restaurant if you could pray for them in some way. Your prayers proclaim God's love for everyone.
13. Another gift of baptism is "serving all people, following Jesus' example." This week, let a person get ahead of you in line or pay for a person in line behind you at a coffee shop or ice cream store
14. Find a way to help people in the community – donate a book or toy, drop off food at a food bank, etc. Make activity bags for children who might be in homeless shelters. Include crayons, coloring books, short books, and other items that they might like. Check with your local shelter to see what is needed. Serving others shares the blessings that God has given you.
15. We can "strive for justice and peace in all the earth," another gift of baptism, by being kind to those around us. This week, make an effort to compliment those around you. If you are traveling, use a blank card to send a positive note to servers, flight attendants, hotel staff, etc., thanking them for their service.
16. Show care for God's creation. Clean up your neighborhood or a park you are visiting.
17. This week, share stories, pictures, and mementos from each family member's baptism. Tell why your baptism is important to you.
18. Live out your baptism by showing hospitality to others—ask a new family to your house for a meal or playdate.
19. Collect change over the summer in an ELCA Good Gifts Piggy Bank. Decide with your family how you would like to spend the money to help others. Go to http://resources.elca.org/ELCA_Good_Gifts-ELCA_Good_Gifts_Piggy_Bank_1.html?
20. Send a card to someone you know is going through a rough time, reminding them that God loves them.



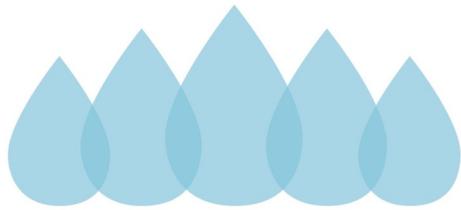
BAPTISM

IN A BAG



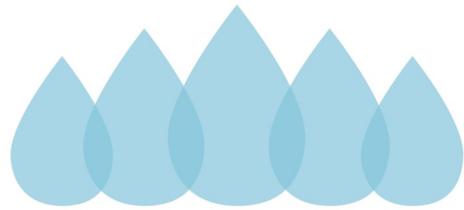
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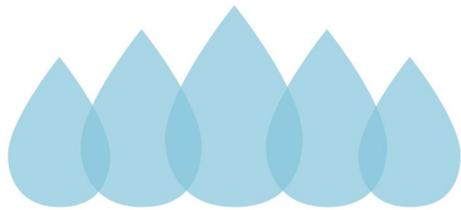
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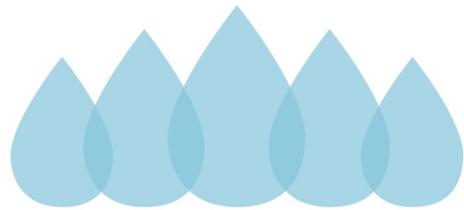
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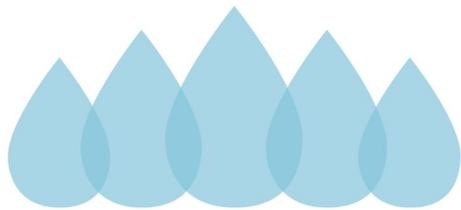
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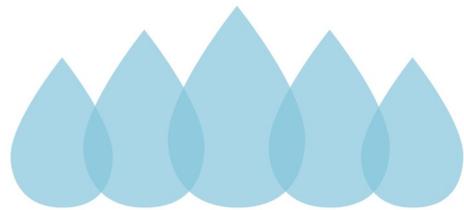
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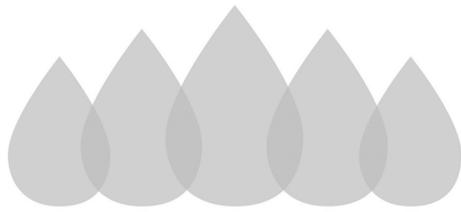
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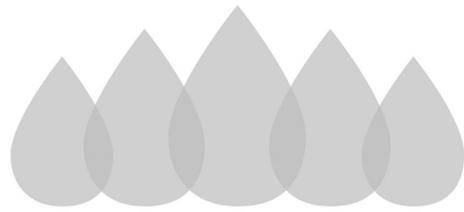
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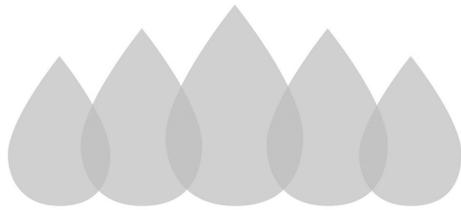
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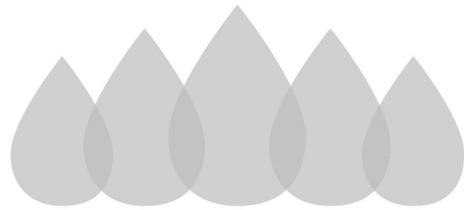
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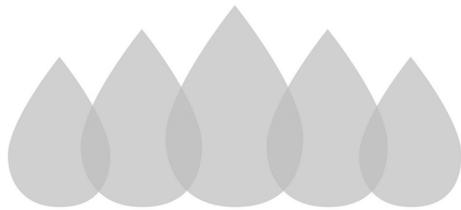
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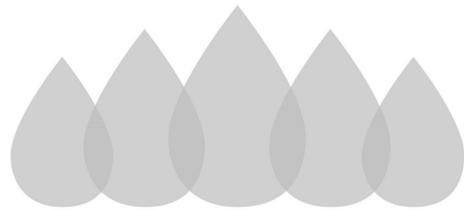
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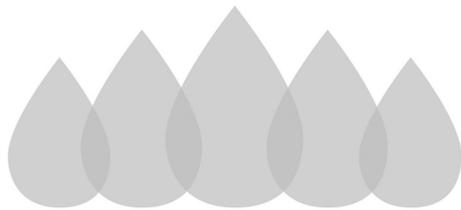
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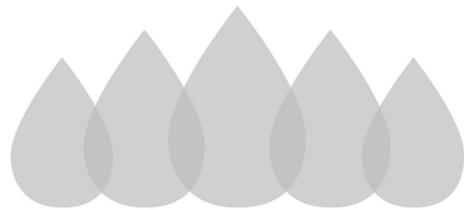
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