



Living Our Baptism Retreat

A flexible retreat to reflect on the Five Gifts of Discipleship through discussion and hands-on activities

Objectives:

- To explore the Five Gifts of Baptism in a group setting through a variety of hands-on activities

Audience: This model can be used for all age groups in a variety of situations including Confirmation, Council, VBS, family and other group settings.

Duration: 4 hours or in multiple 1-hour sessions

Materials/Preparation Needed:

Materials Needed:

- Luther's Small Catechism
- Font or bowl of water
- Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal
- [Story Matters](#) handouts (optional)
- [Some Helpful Ways to Read the Bible](#) by Diane Jacobson (optional)
- [Attitudes We Bring When WE Engage and Engaged By Scripture](#) by Diane Jacobson (optional)
- [Young Adults in Global Missions](#) at ELCA.org/yagm (optional)
- [ELCA Advocacy](#) Resources (optional)
- Pens, pencils, paper
- Bibles
- Other materials based on the specific activities you choose.

Preparation:

- Explore ELCA.org [Faith Practices](#)
- Set up five work stations either around a central gathering spot or in individual rooms.

Lesson/Event:

The following event outline provides suggested activities for the Five Gifts.

- Pick and choose what activities you would like to have based on the age of your participants and your time frame. It is helpful to have a leader at each center to facilitate the activity.
- Determine how you will have people rotate. If it is an intergenerational event, consider making sure that all generations present are represented in the rotating groups.
- If you decide to use this over several meetings, make sure that you have a short gathering piece for each session.
- For a take-home reminder, use the Five Gifts of Discipleship icons shown here (clipart available at www.faithfulteaching.org) to make magnetic buttons that people can collect at each of the stations.
- Consider how you might extend the learning either online or through discussion questions or devotions sent home with participants.

GATHER

Fellowship—Introductions, Mixer, Game

WORD

What is baptism? Small Catechism (ELW 1164-1165)
5 Gifts – ELW (ELW p. 227-231)

Digging Deeper – Rotation or Centers

LIVE

1. Prayer Station (Community)
2. Prayer Bracelet
3. Labyrinth/Prayer Walk/Pray the Neighborhood
4. Have participants use their phones or computers to search for Prayer Ideas. Pick 3 to try together.
5. “What does it mean to live in community with our church family?” Interview Council members/Faith Formation Leaders and others. With permission, record and share the video.



HEAR

1. Plan the Sending Service
2. Find and act out the Bible stories with Baptismal themes (Some possibilities—Noah, Crossing the Red Sea, Water in the Desert, Jonah, Jesus Stills the Storm, Jesus Walks on Water, Fishing for People, Woman at the Well, Jesus Turns Water into Wine, Jesus’ Baptism, Paul’s Shipwreck)
3. Begin working on Story Matters from the ELCA to claim your Biblical story
4. Read together: *Some Helpful Ways to Read the Bible* by Diane Jacobson. How have you read the Bible in the past? Pick one new way and try it together. Discuss.
5. Read together: *Attitudes We Bring When We Engage and Engaged By Scripture* Diane Jacobson. Discuss
6. Use your Bible (or Biblegateway.com) to find a favorite Bible story or Bible verse. Share your story/verse and mark each others’ Bible with your favorite Bible verses/stories.



PROCLAIM

1. Write an invitation message on flip cards and make a video
2. Pick a Bible story, create a song or skit or dramatic reading and share via Facebook Live
3. Make Faith Rocks with an invitation hashtag and then hide them around the community.
4. Interview the pastor about how they study for, write and give sermons
5. Together write a 5-minute skit or sermon to share in worship about baptism.



SERVE

1. Bake cookies to share with First Responders, school teachers, nurses, hospice centers. Who are our invisible servants?
2. Make pasta bags for the local food pantry (check with food pantry first). Using an assembly line, fill a gallon storage bag with: 2 cups macaroni in a sandwich bag, 1 can tuna, 1 can mushroom soup, recipe for tuna mac.
3. Plan an afternoon of free childcare for local families. Create advertising, activities, food, and games.
4. Brainstorm service projects that would benefit your congregation or community. Pick one to plan and implement. What are the needs? What do you like to do? What are you good at doing? How can those areas merge into a special project?
5. Find people who like to scrapbook to lead a card making session. Make cards to send to invisible servants.



STRIVE

1. Justice is not about “fixing” someone or a problem. Discuss: What is justice? Google definitions and ideas then pick one of the following:
2. Brainstorm a list of needs in your school, community, or the world. In what areas do you see injustice occurring? What does the Bible say about justice? What are some solutions that you can be a part of?
3. Visit ELCA.org and learn about Young Adults in Global Missions. Watch the video. Explore the countries they serve. Research what the needs might be and how we, as a church, can be in ministry together.
4. Visit ELCA Advocacy Resources. Remember not everyone will agree on every issue so select those issues that are important to your community. For example:
Food, Farms, Faith
Background: Support for Veterans and Families (For Such a Time)
International Violence Against Women
Background: Stewarding the Gift of Water (Caring for God’s Creation)
Visit ELCA.org/Faith Practices for the document: Conversations: Race Relations



MEAL

Lunch can be potluck or prepared but keep it simple
Prepare Table Questions such as Living Wet Table Tents (see attached)

SENDING

Use what is planned by the groups.



You are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever!



Make a cross on your child's forehead.
"Jesus loves you and so do I."
Ideas: Do at the start or end of the day, in the bathtub, or at the dinner table.

Blessing

Questions
*What is your favorite part of parenting?
*What is the hardest part of parenting with faith?
*What are ways you talk about Jesus at home?

Table Conversation
* Tell about the day your child was baptized.
* What do you know about your own baptism?
* Tell about your favorite place to play with water.
* If you could spend a weekend by water, which would you choose...lake cabin, boating on a river, hanging out at the ocean? Why?

Family Fun
Splash around in the bath tub, kitchen sink, or swimming pool. Remind each other: "You are splashed with God's promise!"



Baptism

The Ride of Your Life



Baptism

The Ride of Your Life



Table Conversation
* Tell about the day your child was baptized.
* What do you know about your own baptism?
* Tell about your favorite place to play with water.
* If you could spend a weekend by water, which would you choose...lake cabin, boating on a river, hanging out at the ocean? Why?

Family Fun
Splash around in the bath tub, kitchen sink, or swimming pool. Remind each other: "You are splashed with God's promise!"

Questions
*What is your favorite part of parenting?
*What is the hardest part of parenting with faith?
*What are ways you talk about Jesus at home?

Blessing
Make a cross on your child's forehead.
"Jesus loves you and so do I."
Ideas: Do at the start or end of the day, in the bathtub, or at the dinner table.



You are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever!