

Baptism and Repentance

Unit 5 Chapter 18

Background: Sacraments of the Kingdom

A group of Jews known as the Essenes lived in the desert and wanted to purify themselves for the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist, who may have been an Essene, devoted his life to preparing people for the Messiah. His message of preparation was twofold: repent and be baptized.

We recognize Jesus Christ to be the Messiah. We participate in the Kingdom of God by turning away from sin and by being baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation we commit ourselves more fully to our faith; we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism and Confirmation, along with Eucharist, are the Sacraments of Christian Initiation; they strengthen us to live as members of the Church.

The Sacraments of Healing, Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, help us live as good members of God's kingdom. They bring us physical and spiritual healing, renewal, and rebirth throughout life. With the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, they help us celebrate our unity and our identity as God's own people.

Getting Ready

1. Before introducing Chapter 18 to your child, read the Take Home pages 203 and 204 of your child's book. Gather the family at a convenient time during the week to participate in the Activity on page 203.
2. With your child, read about Saint Josephine Bakhita, the Saint of the Week. Learn more about her at SaintsResource.com.
3. Read aloud and discuss John the Baptist at the top of page 204. You may wish to look at the table of contents in your Bible and review the names of the Old Testament prophets. Learn more about Saint John the Baptist at SaintsResource.com. You will read the Scripture passage (Matthew 3:1-11) later in this lesson.
4. Read Our Catholic Tradition. Learn more about Saint Benedict at SaintsResource.com. Learn more about the Benedictines at osb.org.



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Focus

Baptism and Penance and Reconciliation help us follow Jesus Christ and prepare for his Second Coming.

The Church Teaches

"The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it. That is why they are called 'sacraments of faith.'"⁴⁴

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1123
⁴⁴ SC 59.

Prayer

Jesus, be merciful to me, a sinner. Forgive my sins and failings. Fill me with faith in your mercy, and hope in the everlasting life you have promised to those who love you. Amen.

Exploring the Chapter

Share

1. Light the candle. Read aloud the Scripture verse at the top of page 205. Discuss what a new spirit might mean. Pray again the Scripture verse.
2. Read aloud the Share section on page 205. Talk about a holiday your family will soon prepare for, and what will need to be done in preparation.
3. Review the directions to the activity, and give your child time to complete it. Discuss his or her responses.

Hear and Believe

4. Look at and talk about what is happening in the photograph on page 206.
5. Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 206 and review the Faith Words, **Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes**.
6. Read the Scripture passage (Matthew 3:1-11). Invite your child to recall the Scripture by giving a physical description of John the Baptist and by summarizing the message of his preaching.
7. With your child, talk about things that strengthen us in faith, such as prayer, reading God's Word, the Sacraments, and serving others. Then read *The Kingdom is Coming* on page 207. Emphasize that Baptism and Confirmation strengthen us to live as members of the Church and to spread Jesus' message.
8. Read *Our Church Teaches* and the *We Believe* statement. Invite your child to name the effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, as outlined in the first paragraph of *Our Church Teaches*.

Respond

9. Review the directions to Activity 1 on page 208. Work with your child to complete the chart, referring to pages 265-267 as needed.
10. Invite your child to complete Activities 2 and 3 on page 209. Review the responses to Activity 2. (*Baptism, Penance and Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick*)
11. Lead your child in praying *A Prayer of Renewal* on page 210. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
12. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
13. Work with your child to complete *Faith in Action* on page 212. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**.

We really liked . . .

We want to learn more about . . .