

# Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

## Opening Activity for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

### Non-Verbal Love Gestures

Begin with a game centered around the theme of receiving affirmation of love. You may opt to utilize the suggested game provided below, or choose an alternative option.

Have the youth sit in a circle. One person will start by making a non-verbal gesture of love towards someone else in the circle. For example, blowing a kiss or giving a thumbs-up. The person who receives the gesture then repeats it to someone else in the circle, and so on. Keep going until everyone has had a turn.

After the game, ask the following questions:

- How did it feel to receive a non-verbal gesture of love from someone in the group?
- Was it difficult to come up with a non-verbal gesture of love to pass on to someone else? Why or why not?
- Did anyone come up with a gesture that they had never thought of before? What was it?
- Do you think non-verbal gestures of love are just as important as verbal expressions of love? Why or why not?
- How could you use non-verbal gestures of love in your relationships with family and friends?

As we reflect on the love we express through non-verbal gestures, let's turn to the scripture to see how God expresses His love for us. In the Bible, we see numerous examples of God's love for His people, and today we will be reading about one of those examples. As we read, think about the ways that God's love is shown to us and how we can respond to that love in our lives.

## Scripture Reading for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

Consider what we hear about declaring love in [Mark 1:7-11](#):

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

[Mark 1:7-11](#)

## Reflection for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

How amazing! The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove, while God the Father uttered the words "You are my cherished son, in whom I am well pleased." This declaration undeniably reveals the Father's love for Jesus.

Furthermore, it's important to consider the concept of the Trinity in this context. God the Father is the one who loves, God the Son is the object of that love, and God the Holy Spirit represents the bond between them – a bond so powerful that it is its own distinct entity. So, when we read about the Holy Spirit descending in the gospel, it's actually the manifestation of that divine love.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- How do you think Jesus felt when God the Father declared His love for Him?
- How can this passage help us understand God's love for us?

It's likely that most of us were baptized as infants and have no recollection of the event. (If someone in the group was baptized as a child or adult, you could ask them to share their experience.) Nevertheless, despite not remembering it, baptism is a powerful sacrament that accomplishes several significant things.

Firstly, it removes the stain of original sin and prepares us to receive God's presence within us. Secondly, it grants us the status of adopted children of God.

To better understand the significance of baptism, it can be helpful to imagine ourselves as infants being baptized. As the water is poured over our heads, it's like receiving a loving kiss from our Heavenly Father. He invites us into His family, instilling within us a yearning for intimacy with Him, and calls us "beloved."

Therefore, just like the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus, our baptism serves as a symbol of God's gracious love for us.

## Small Group Reflection Questions for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

Divide the youth into small groups of 3-4 people. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings about being called a child of God. Ask the following questions:

- What does it mean to you to be called a child of God?
- Do you ever find it difficult to believe that God has called you “Beloved”? Why or why not?
- How does God’s love for you impact the way you live in the world and interact with others?
- If you knew someone wasn’t baptized, would you be willing to talk to them about what baptism means? Why or why not?

After a few minutes, ask for volunteers to share their thoughts with the larger group.

## Challenge for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

Have some paper and pencils available.

Take some space and time to compose a personal letter to God expressing your emotions and thoughts about being a part of His family. This letter is exclusively for your own eyes, and nobody else will have access to it. You are free to write whatever you feel compelled to share.

After giving them some time, gather back in.

At some point within the week, revisit the letter you wrote and add to it if you feel inclined to share more with God. Once you have reread your letter, take a moment to pray a brief but powerful prayer: “I am Your beloved. I place my trust in You.”

## Prayer for Baptized as Beloved Children Lesson Plan

Gather the youth in a circle and lead them in a closing prayer. Thank God for His love for us and for making us baptized as beloved children. Ask Him to help us live our lives as His children and to always remember His love for us.

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and calling us your children. Help us to always remember your love for us and to live our lives as your beloved sons and daughters.

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