

## FORMATION LESSON 7

### PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD: THE MISSION OF JESUS BEGINS

#### 1. Objectives:

- To help the candidates understand Jesus' Baptism as a time when He more deeply discovered His true identity and embraced His true mission.
- To explore Jesus' temptations in the desert as His confrontation with the rejection of destructive power
- How our baptism helps us grow closer to Jesus and as how we are getting prepared for confirming ourselves with the Holy spirit?
- How can we overcome temptations with the help of the Holy Spirit?
- To introduce Mary's central role in the plan of salvation
- How the confirmation by the Holy Spirit is the second baptism children receive in their lives?

#### Scripture references:

##### Mark 1:7- 13

##### The Proclamation of John the Baptist

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

##### The Baptism of Jesus

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."

##### The Temptation of Jesus

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

Mark 16:14-18 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news—to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

##### John 20:19-23

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

#### 3. **Who came to prepare the way for Jesus?**

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus.

#### 4. **What is Baptism other than a sacrament?**

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift. We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift.

#### 5. **What are the two moments we see in Baptism of Jesus?**

We can see the "two moments" in the Baptism of Jesus: on the one hand, he *descends* towards us into the waters of the Jordan; on the other, he *raises* his eyes and his heart, praying to the Father.

#### 6. **What must we do when we face difficult moments?**

While facing difficult moments and choices that get us down, we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards towards God.

#### 7. **How did Jesus reject Satan and why?**

- Jesus rejected Satan by refusing to turn the stones into bread because He came to fulfill spiritual hunger

- Jesus rejected the idea that kingdom of God would not be based on the power of magic and works of wonder by refusing to throw himself off the top of the temple and surviving.
- Jesus said that kingdom will not be based on political power and said “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him”

**8. What does signing of the cross remind us of?**

Every time we do the sign of the cross we are reminded of our baptism because it reminds us of Jesus sending His disciples to proclaim the word of God and baptizing In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Significance of water in Liturgical purpose?**

**THE WATER AT ENTRANCE - Renewal of baptism, a cleansing of venial sin, as well as providing protection against evil.**

**The use of a mixture of water and wine symbolizes the two natures of Christ -- human and divine.**

**THE WATER - The water used in baptismal ceremonies contains a mixture of olive oil and balsam Together with the "oil of catechumens," usually olive oil that has been blessed by a bishop at a Mass during the Passion Week. Brings the believer into a new life with God. Sprinkling of water-The act is done in preparation for worship and is believed to bring spiritual cleansing.**

**9. What is temptation?**

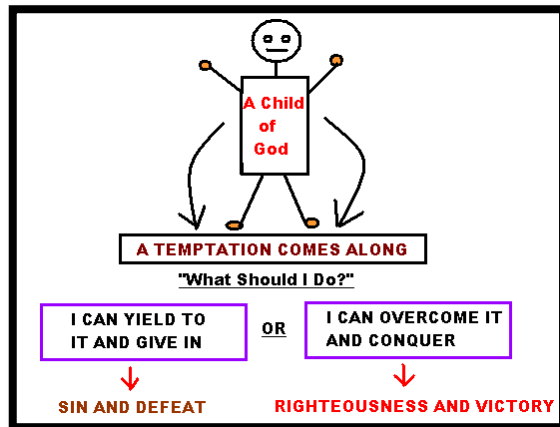
The desire to do something, generally something we can't or shouldn't do?

**Can Satan make us sin?**

**No**, he cannot. Satan can tempt us to sin, but he cannot make us sin.

**When does sin come in?**

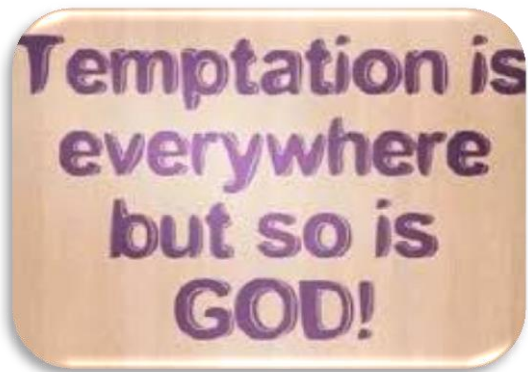
Sin comes in when we say "yes" to the temptation. We sin when we give in to temptation.



**10. How to defeat temptations in our personal life?**

Scripture reading, Prayer, charity and family rosary.

- Never compromise YOUR FAITH but keep trusting in God's providence.
- Even in our toughest TIMES THANK God and worship Him always.

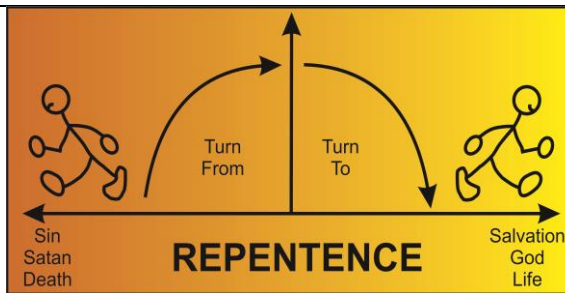


## What is Repentance?

Repentance  
is a change  
OF  MIND  
and  
Heart 

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- ❖ Repentance will bring you closer to God
- ❖ God will wash your sins away.
- ❖ God will purify you.
- ❖ You will start prospering
- ❖ You will inherit God's Kingdom
- ❖ You will receive eternal life



**a**DMIT IT  
**b**e sorry  
**c**onFess & FIX  
**d**ON'T DO IT again

## MOTHER MARY'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

- **LUKE 1:28-AND HE CAME TO HER AND SAID, "GREETINGS, FAVORED ONE! THE LORD IS WITH YOU." (BLESSED)**
- **THEN MARY SAID, "HERE AM I, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD; LET IT BE WITH ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD." THEN THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER. (SUBMISSION)**
- **JOHN 2:5 HIS MOTHER SAID TO THE SERVANTS, "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU." (CALL FOR OBEDIENCE)**
- **LUKE 2:51 "THEN HE WENT DOWN WITH THEM AND CAME TO NAZARETH, AND WAS OBEDIENT TO THEM. HIS MOTHER TREASURED ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART." (JESUS' TEACHING US TO BE OBEDIENT TO OUR PARENTS)**
- **JOHN 19:26 WHEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER AND THE DISCIPLE WHOM HE LOVED STANDING BESIDE HER, HE SAID TO HIS MOTHER, "WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON." 27 THEN HE SAID TO THE DISCIPLE, "HERE IS YOUR MOTHER." (JESUS' LOVE FOR HIS MOTHER AND GIVING HER FOR US AS A MOTHER)**

### SUMMARY:

1. Baptism is not only bringing you into Christian faith but it is a life transforming sacrament
2. Baptism doesn't need age
3. Baptism can be by water as done when infant or by Holy Spirit as in confirmation
4. Receiving confirmation is calling to start living life that is God's will.
5. The power of the Holy spirit will help us live as witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
6. Mother Mary will always be the anchor to keep us in salvation
7. Goal of baptism is to live a holy life in this pilgrimage towards Heaven.

## Bible Study: 1 Samuel 21

1. I Sam 21:1 Who was the priest who came to meet David trembling and asked him why no one was with him?
  1. Eli ,
  2. Ahimelech
  3. Samuel
  4. Phinehas
  
2. I Sam 21:1 - At what place was Ahimelech when he asked David why he was alone?
  1. Bethlehem
  2. Ammon
  3. Nob
  4. Ramah
  
3. I Sam 21:3 - David asked Ahimelech the priest specifically for how many loaves of bread
  1. 2
  2. 3
  3. 4
  4. 5
  
4. I Sam 21:4 - The priest offered David the holy bread, but only if the young men had kept themselves from what?
  1. a razor
  2. wine
  3. leprosy
  4. Women
  
5. I Sam 21:6 - What was another name for the holy bread?
  1. bread of the Presence
  2. bread of life
  3. wafers
  4. Manna
  
6. I Sam 21:7 - Who was the chief of Saul's herdsmen?
  1. Doeg the Edomite
  2. Esau the Edomite
  3. Elijah the Shunammite
  4. Jabba the Hutt
  
7. I Sam 21:9 - In what valley did David strike down Goliath?
  1. Ramah
  2. Edom
  3. Elah
  4. Nob
  
8. I Sam 21:9 - Whose sword did Ahimelech give to David?
  1. Saul's
  2. Goliath's
  3. Jonathan's
  4. Nathan's
  
9. I Sam 21:10 - David fled from Saul to Achish the king of what place?
  1. Gaza
  2. Gath
  3. Ekron
  4. Ashkelon

10. I Sam 21:11-13 The servants of Achish remembered the song about David, so he was afraid of the king and pretended to be what?

1. weak
2. blind
3. lame
4. **Insane**

11. I Sam 21:13 - David changed his behavior before the servants of Achish by making marks on the doors of the gate and letting what run down his beard?

1. insects
2. drinks
3. **spittle**
4. snakes

1. What was the only thing that the priest had on hand to give David to eat?  
The bread that had been prepared and placed in the temple for the Lord
2. What was the only weapon that the priest had to give to David?  
The sword of Goliath
3. Who was there with Abimelech the priest the day that David visited him?  
Doeg
4. Who is Jesse's youngest son?  
(A. Samuel, B. Saul, C. David, D. None of these)
5. The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over .....? I have rejected him from being king over Israel"  
(A. Jesse, B. Eliab, C. David, D. None of these)
6. Name Jesse's son, who was anointed by Samuel to become the King of Israel.  
(A. Eliab B. Abinadab, C. David, D. Shammah )
7. David was the youngest son of \_\_\_\_\_ (Jesse).
8. Samuel went to \_\_\_\_\_ after anointing David. (Ramah)
9. The third son of Jesse was \_\_\_\_\_ (Shammah)

**DO LIST FOR CHILD: FORMATION HANDOUT 7-A - THE MAGNIFICAT OF MARY**

# 40 DAYS OF LENT

Old Testament

New Testament



Moses fasted for 40 days and night

Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. Exodus 34:28



Jesus fasted for 40 days and night

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

40 and 50 in Easter Season: Easter to Ascension = 40 days. Easter to Pentecost = 50 Days.



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD



Know all about Days of Lent  
Are there 40 Days or 50 Days in Lent?

**Biblical Number:** 40 days of flood, 40 years in the desert, 40 days on Mt Sinai, spies in the land for 40 days, 40 days of Challenge from Goliath, 40 days in cave by Elijah, 40 days of repentance by Ninevites, 40 days of fasting in the desert by Jesus. It's a time of test, trial, temptation, fasting, prayer, repentance and purification.

**Counting 40 in Latin Rite:** Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday = 46 days – 6 Sundays (Sundays not counted in Lent; Sunday is always the sign of Easter) = 40 days.

- 40 Days of Lent.
- Recalls the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.
- A time of spiritual cleansing and preparation through self denial, repentance and prayer.



## What is LENT?

LENT IS THE 40 DAYS BEFORE EASTER. IT BEGINS THE DAY AFTER SHROVE TUESDAY (PANCAKE TUESDAY) AND ENDS ON PALM SUNDAY.



Christians celebrate LENT to remind them of the time Jesus fasted in the desert.

## The symbols OF LENT

### ASHES

Remind us that God created us from dust. **PALM LEAVES** Were laid upon Jesus path as he entered Jerusalem, for goodness and health.

### PURPLE

The colour worn by royalty and associated with mourning.

## Why do we FAST?

FASTING FOR 40 DAYS REMINDS US OF WHEN JESUS FASTED IN THE DESERT.



This is an important time when we give up something important to remind us of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

## What is ALMSGIVING?

ALMSGIVING IS THE ACT OF PUTTING OTHERS FIRST AND GIVING TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US.

During LENT we focus on prayer and almsgiving.



## Shrove TUESDAY

THE LAST TUESDAY BEFORE LENT BEGINS. In the past Christians used this day to eat the food that wouldn't last through LENT.

Pancakes used up the milk, egg and fat, just by adding flour.



Also called PANCAKE TUESDAY

## Ash WEDNESDAY

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT



Ashes are placed on the forehead as a sign of the dust from which God made us. It also symbolises the confession of our sins.



Creative and simple things to make the best of Lent



Quit taking selfies (More God, less me)



Delete one app from your phone that distracts you



If you buy a snack, get one for someone else



Fast from water (in the shower)



Use words to express how you feel instead of emojis



Take out the trash without being asked