

## TLC Confirmation – Lesson C19

# Water of Life

### Opening Discussion

1. Name as many uses of WATER that you can think of. (*write ideas below*)
2. Name as many Bible Stories that involve WATER in some way. (*write ideas below*)

Almost every page of the Old Testament is **wet**. It is amazing to observe how often water finds its way into OT stories, especially stories about how God is at work to bless or save His people. From the opening words of Genesis to the closing words of the prophets, we continually hear about how God joins His Word of grace to water. God uses water to lift up the ark to carry Noah and his family to safety; He uses it at the Red Sea to rescue His people, Israel, from the murderous pursuit of Pharaoh; He brings it out of a rock in the wilderness to demonstrate to Israel that He is the God who brings life out of death. By the time you get to the New Testament, it comes then as no surprise when God “in the flesh,” Jesus Christ, chooses water as the element of creation by which to save sinners and bring them into His life-giving body. Holy Baptism has been hinted at all along.

### Paradise & the Garden

3. Read Genesis 1:1-5 along with Matthew 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. In what way is the Spirit present at Jesus’ baptism and at our Baptism? What does the Spirit create at Baptism?
4. Read Genesis 2:1-14. Where does the water come to water the plants and vegetation on the earth? What is at the center of the garden and what flows from it (see verses 9-10)?
5. Now read Revelation 22:1-2 and Ezekiel 47:1-9 which both give pictures of the New Heaven. Which elements of the Garden of Eden also present in the new heaven and new earth? How are these two rivers similar?
6. Read John 19:34. What flowed from the side of Jesus when He was crucified? How is this “river” from Jesus’ side the same river that Ezekiel saw flowing from the side of the temple? (See also John 2:21). How can we have access to this river?

## **The Flood**

7. Now read Genesis 6:5-7. What problem did God see on the earth? What was God's solution? (see Genesis 6:13-18).
8. Read Matthew 24:37-39. How does Jesus use the Flood as an example in His preaching about the end of the world?
9. Read 1 Peter 3:20-22. What does Peter say about the ark and the number of people in the ark? Peter connects the ark with which sacrament?
10. Now read Romans 6:3-6. In Noah's day the Flood produced both death and life. It was death for some and life for others. In what way is the water of Baptism both death and life?

## **Crossing the Red Sea**

In the book of Exodus, the Lord delivers His people from the slavery and oppression of Egypt. After leaving Egypt, the Lord led the Israelites into the wilderness towards the Red Sea. Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go and chased after them.

11. Read Exodus 14:10-12. When the Israelites looked up to see the Egyptians heading towards them, how did they react? What did their reaction reveal about their faith? How does Psalm 106:6-7 describe the people's reactions.
12. What does St. Paul say about weakness and strength in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10? How were the Israelites "made weak" at the Red Sea? How does God make you weak that you may be strong?
13. Now read Exodus 14:15-31. How did God part the waters of the Red Sea? How did the Lord use the same water in two ways: one for his people and one for the Egyptians? What was the result for God's people of their passing through the sea and the Egyptians dying in the waters?
14. How does St. Paul interpret the crossing of the Red Sea in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4? How does he compare this crossing to baptism? Who was the "rock" that accompanied them?

## **Jordan River**

15. On the other side of the Exodus account is the Jordan River. Read Joshua 3:6-17. How did the nation cross the Jordan River? What piece of "holy furniture" was central in the crossing? How is Jesus our new "ark of the covenant"?
16. *Joshua* is a Hebrew name that means "Yahweh is salvation." If we wrote "Joshua" in Greek, it would be spelled "Jesus." Thus, our Lord Jesus and Joshua share the same name. This is no mere coincidence. How is Jesus our new and better Joshua? If Joshua led Israel in the conquest of the enemy, who has our new and better Joshua conquered?

## **Jesus Puts Himself in the Water**

17. Read Matthew 3:13-17. What happens when Jesus comes out of the Jordan river?
18. Is it correct to say that when we see Jesus we actually see God? (see John 1:18 & 14:9).
19. Look back at Genesis 1:1-2. When the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, He did so in the form of a dove. Elsewhere in the Bible, the Holy Spirit is described as a dove or as hovering as a dove might do. What is the Spirit doing? Over what is He hovering? Compare this with the baptism of Jesus in light of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Paul says that if we are in Jesus, we are a \_\_\_\_\_ . Discuss how the baptism of Jesus is a like a re-Genesis of the world.
20. Read Genesis 8:8-12. What place does the dove have in the account of the Flood and Noah's ark? How is this dove a bearer of good news? In what way is the Holy Spirit's coming in the form of a dove also good news? From what kind of "flood" are we rescued by being baptized into Jesus (see 2 Peter 3:5-7)?
21. How is the Holy Spirit involved in your Baptism? See Titus 3:4-5. According to 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19, what does your body become when you are baptized?