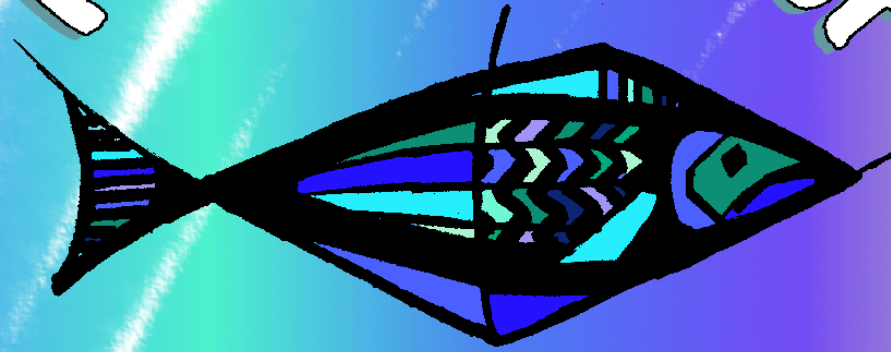


Five Words of



ΙΧΘΥΣ

Understanding

**Jesus
Christ,
God's
Son
Savior**

Sample Packet

FIVE WORDS OF UNDERSTANDING

[Sample Packet]

A Vacation Bible School Program written and published by Pax Domini Press

Customer Service and Ordering Information - (419) 475-6140

www.pax-domini.com

Who is Pax Domini Press?

Pax Domini Press is a small but growing publishing company which aims to provide an alternative to the highly commercialized products of the leading Christian publishing houses.

What are some Pax Domini Press Products?

Pax Domini Press has published nine Vacation Bible School programs, each available for purchase at \$150. These programs include: *Lord, Have Mercy* (on Law and Gospel), *In the Name* (on the Holy Trinity), *I Am* (on the 7 I Am's in the Gospel of John), *According to the Scriptures* (on Christ in the Old Testament), *Take up the Cross* (on the baptismal life), *The Remission of Sins* (on Holy Absolution), *Fervent Love for One Another* (on Christian charity), *Five Words of Understanding* (on the ICHTHUS), and *A New Song* (on the songs of Scripture).

Finally, *Pax Domini Press* now has available two Sunday School curricula. Like the VBS program, this curriculum is produced for self-publication. One curriculum is entitled, *Teaching them to observe all things*, which takes the student through the entire Gospel of Matthew. The latest curriculum is entitled, *A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord*. It follows the Gospels of the Historic Lectionary.

What is included in this sample packet?

Included in this sample packet are a picture of the front cover, brief explanations of the materials given in the kit, lessons from each level (1-4), a sample from the puppet show, and a sample from the daily prayer bulletin, including the hymn.

How does Pax Domini Press's Vacation Bible School program work?

Pax Domini Press produces a CD with all the files needed for a congregation to publish a VBS program. Included on the CD are the following:

1. PDF files of a Program Manual with guidance on program implementation, instructions for the craft, and ideas for recreation time.
2. PDF files of teachers editions of each student workbook.
3. PDF files of workbook pages for the student workbooks.
4. PDF file of chapel bulletin with prayer service for each day of the program.
5. PDF file of puppet show script for use with Level 1 material.
6. PDF files of advertising materials (door hangings, bulletins, bulletin headers)
7. Extra electronic images and PDF files to be used with Level 1 material (coloring pages, activity pages, etc.) or for the craft (patterns, verses, etc.)

With these resources, the congregation simply assembles the workbooks, bulletins, and craft materials. The cost of the VBS can cost anywhere from \$10/child to \$20/child (pending on whether the craft kit is purchased or not, also pending on how the workbooks are assembled).

How do the workbooks work?

The congregation receives a CD with color pdf files of workbooks for Levels 1-4. The congregation has permission to do whatever it wants with these files. They may do the following:

- (1) Simply print them off for the children (files may print in black and white as well)
- (2) Take them to a printing professional to make booklets for the children
- (3) Advanced copiers/printers may have capabilities to produce booklets from PDF files

What is the age range for this program?

Level 1	Ages 4-5
Level 2	Ages 6-7
Level 3	Ages 8-9
Level 4	Ages 10-12

What is the theme of *Five Words of Understanding*?

Typical *Pax Domini Press* products are known for being challenging. Teaching Christocentricity (as *According to the Scriptures* does), for example, assumes a certain level of understanding of the Gospel and the Scriptures. Many congregations, however, use VBS as a time to invite the unbaptized and unbelieving friends and family of members. Some customers, consequently, have requested a more “evangelistic” VBS program.

Five Words of Understanding answers this need. From St. Paul’s words that he would rather speak five words of understanding than 10,000 words in a tongue, this VBS program teaches the five words of the ICHTHUS.

What is the ICHTHUS? ICHTHUS is Greek for *fish*. Christians used the fish symbol because the five letters that spell out ICHTHUS are the first letters of the confession, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.”

This VBS program, then, is as simple as possible: It teaches Who Jesus is and what He has done for us according to these words.

Here is a summary of the lessons for the five days:

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Story</u>
Intro		Caught in His Net	Jesus preaches from the boat (Luke 5: 1-10)
I	Jesus	Save Me!	Jesus saves Peter from the waves (Matthew 14: 22-33)
CH	Christ	Anointed	Jesus is baptized (Luke 3-4)
THU	God’s Son	Who can this be?	Jesus has power over the winds and the sea (Matthew 8: 23-27)
S	Savior	Saved in Baptism	Baptized and Saved (Mark 15 & Acts 2)

As can be seen, water flows through each lesson. And of course, the cross looms over each lesson. Children will leave this program knowing that Jesus saves them from sins, that He is the King of kings Who rules over sin, death, and the devil for us, that Jesus is God, and that the Sacrament of baptism is where Jesus saves us today.

What is the craft like?

While typical *Pax Domini Press* crafts meet a high standard of materials, meaning, and craftsmanship, requiring strong oversight by craft supervisors, customers may be pleased with the craft for *Five Words of Understanding*.

First off, it will be much more inexpensive than other crafts. Second, it will allow for a lot more creativity from students. Finally, it will be easier to execute.

The craft is the making of ICHTHUS images with polymer clay, to hang on a necklace. There are a wide variety of objects that may be made – fish, a ram’s horn, a cross, a clover – and through some special techniques they can be cleverly done, children will make their own ICHTHUS necklace.

Polymer clays and accessories are available at most craft stores, and *Pax Domini Press* will sell materials as well for congregations who are not near a metropolitan area. Craft kits will be sold in bulks for 10 students, at the price of \$70/bulk. That comes out to \$7/child.

What about worship?

Pax Domini Press provides a worship folder which has a simplified Matins service for each day of the week. In the service are the Matins versicle, a Psalm, a hymn, a reading, a message, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. The hymn uses original words – five verses summarizing the five lessons of the week – and puts them to the tune of several hymns which may be found in the hymnal. Samples of a day of the chapel service and the hymn are given at the end of this packet.

What about the pre-schoolers?

The Level 1 material includes a puppet show (which older children may also enjoy) and a story booklet written in simple language. Also included is a teacher's book with suggestions and ideas for songs, games, and activities which will emphasize the theme for the day.

Congregations interested in expanding their program to include 3 year olds may also purchase *Let the Little Children Come unto Me*. This is a "catechism kit" with coloring books and a mini-VBS that teaches the Holy Trinity. See website for more details.

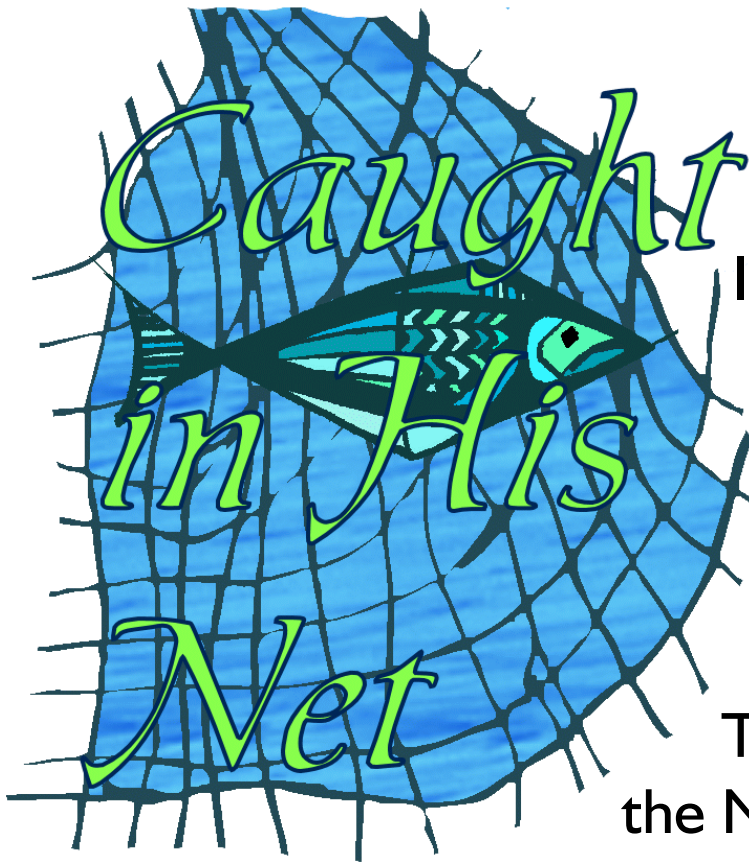
What else does the kit come with?

The kit also comes with recreation ideas. These recreation ideas are activities which incorporate the theme of the VBS. The kit also includes masters for canvassing, posters, and bulletin inserts. Finally, the kit gives some guidance and advice on running a VBS; it includes a check-list of things which must be done 3-4 months prior, 3-4 weeks prior, 3-4 days prior, during the VBS, and after the VBS.

Jesus Preaches from the Boat

Luke 5: 1-10

Level 1 Sample



This week, we are going to learn about the ICHTHUS.

What is the ICHTHUS?

ICHTHUS means "FISH."

The ICHTHUS teaches us the Name of Jesus:

Jesus Christ,
Son of God,
our Savior.

Jesus Preaches from the Boat

Sample Sample



One day, many people wanted to hear Jesus teach. Jesus got into a boat and taught them. Simon owned the boat.

After He was finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Go out into the deep water and cast out your nets.”

Simon said, “Master, we have worked hard all night, but we have caught nothing. But because You say so, I will do as you say.”

Simon cast his nets, and caught a huge number of fish. Their nets were breaking!

Sample Sample

Sample Sample



Then Simon said to Jesus, “Go away from me. I am a sinner!”



But Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

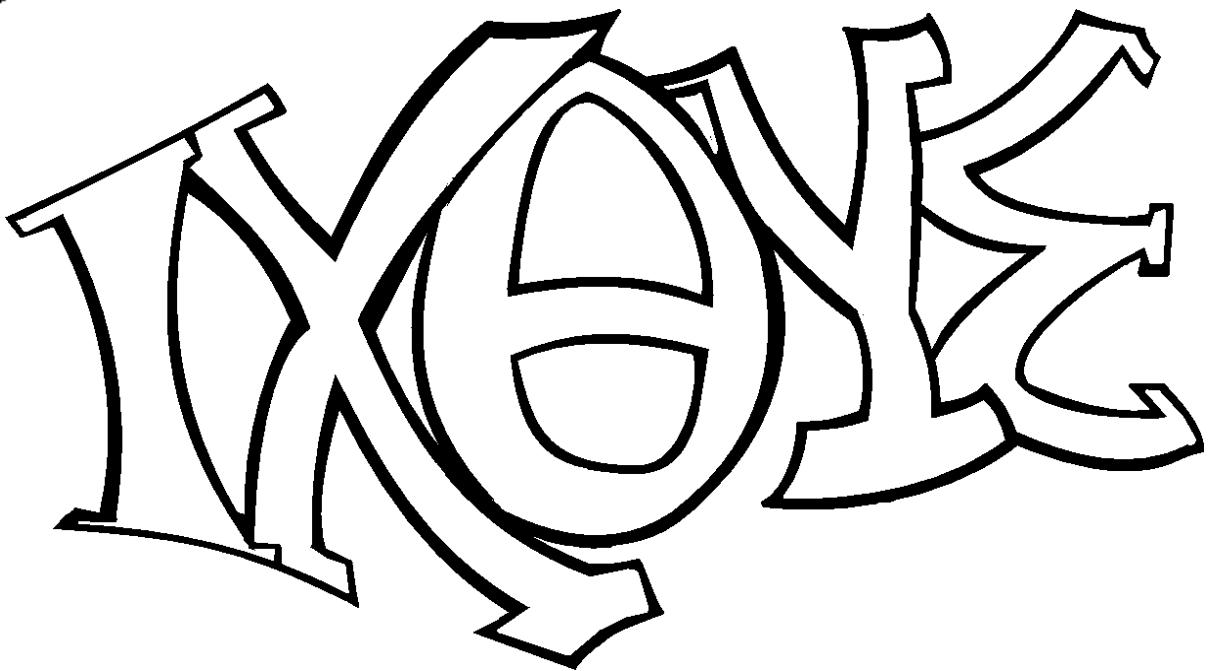
We are like fish. Jesus sends preachers like Simon out to catch us with the Word.

At church, we confess Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior.

The fish symbol teaches this to us.



ΙΧΘΥΣ





Jesus saves Peter from the waves

Matthew 14: 22-33

Level 2 Sample

Introduction

Last lesson, we learned about the ICHTHUS. ICHTHUS is the Greek word for “fish.”

We learned that...

I is for Iesos, or Jesus...

CH is for Christos, or Christ...

TH is for Theou, or God’s...

U is for Uios, or Son...

S is for Soter, or Savior...

We learned that our Lord is “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior.” We also learned that we are fish. We are caught by Jesus from our sins. He died for all our sins, and He saves us from our sins in baptism.

Today, we will learn what Jesus means. The name “Jesus” means something very beautiful for us.

Read the short story about how Jesus was named by Joseph:

The Naming of Jesus

After Mary became pregnant, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, that baby which is in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

How did Jesus save us from our sins?

Where do we receive this forgiveness?

Now read the story about how Jesus saved Peter:

Jesus Saves Peter

Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go to the other side. He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come."

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Answer the following questions based on the reading:

1. Why was Jesus not with the disciples?
2. How did He get out to them on the boat?
3. What did the disciples think Jesus was?
4. What did Jesus say to them? Why did He say this?
5. After Peter began to walk on water, why did he begin to sink?
6. What did Peter cry out to Jesus?
7. Did Jesus save Peter?
8. What did the other say about Jesus when He got into the boat?

Save Me!

Jesus means "He will save His people from their sins." In today's story, Peter cries



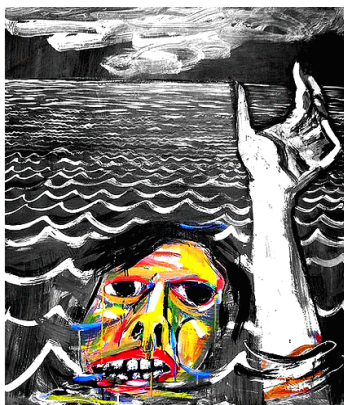
for Jesus to save him from the waters. How are the waters like sins?

The Psalm for today says, "Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck....O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You."

To drown in water is like drowning in our sins. The Bible says that sins are like water that we are drowning in.

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences to see how sins are like water:

1. Water may first feel good, but if it comes up over our neck, it will _____ us.
2. Sin may first be fun to do, but eventually it will _____ us.
3. If someone is drowning, the more he thrashes around, the more he _____.
4. With sin, the more we try to save ourselves from our sins, the more we _____.



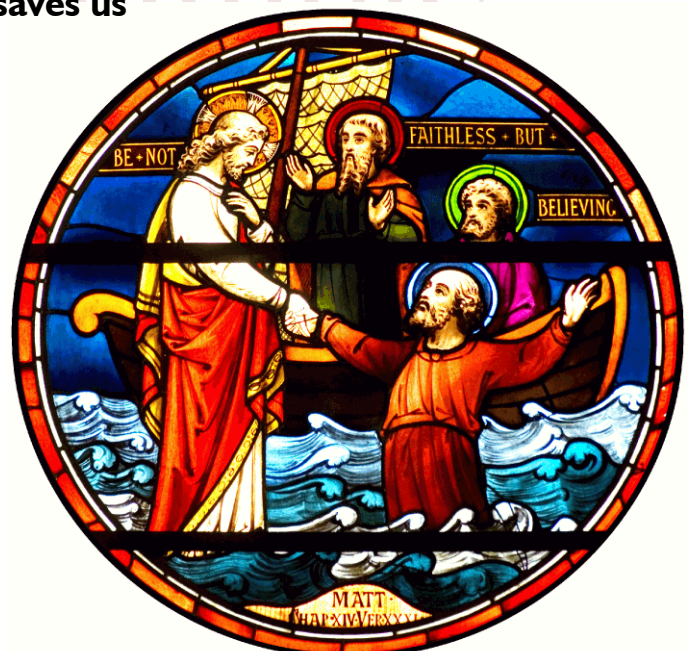
Read the following Psalm together. Circle the verse that explains why Jesus was able to save Peter from the waves:

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice;

The floods lift up their waves.

The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.

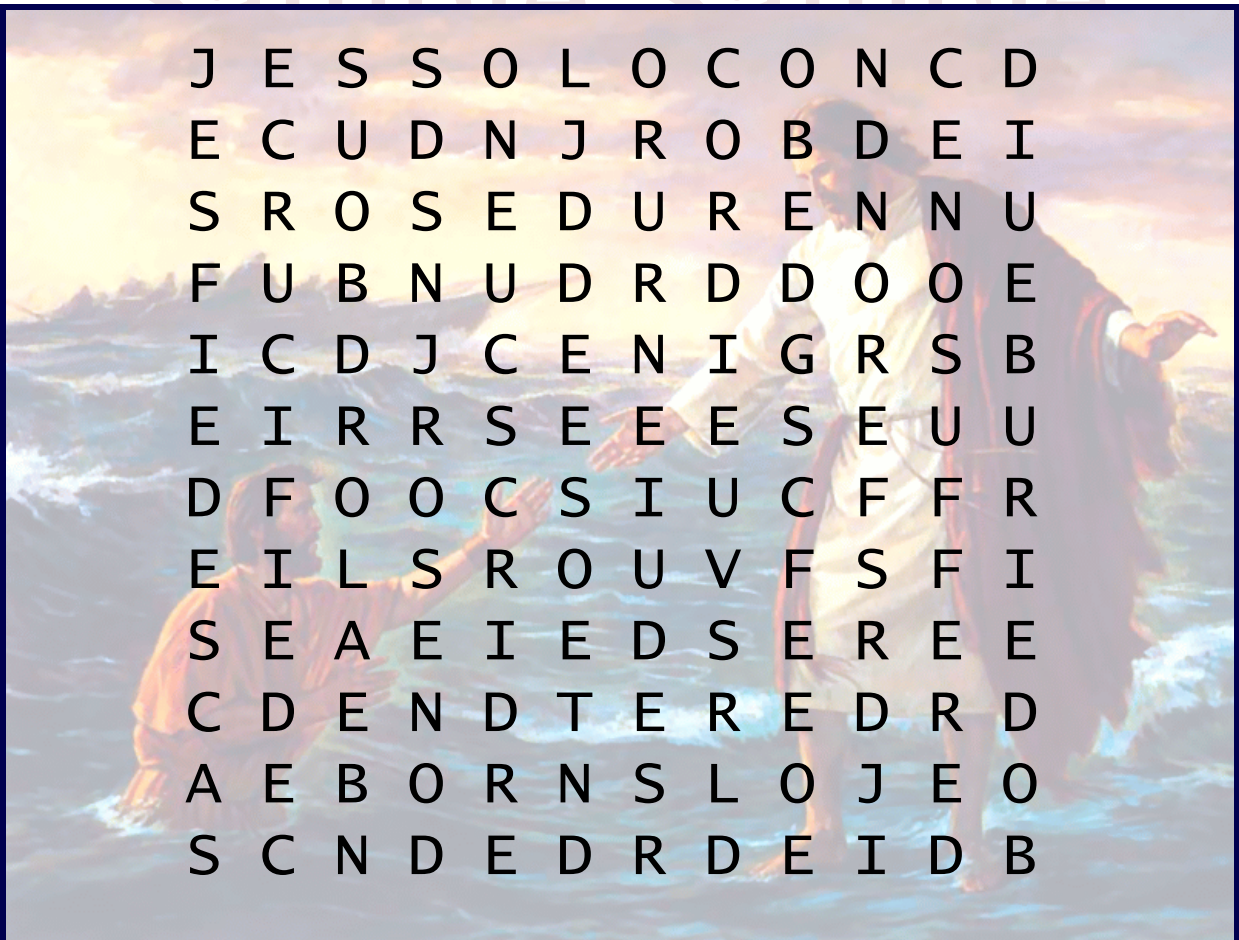
Write down some of the things that Jesus saves us from:

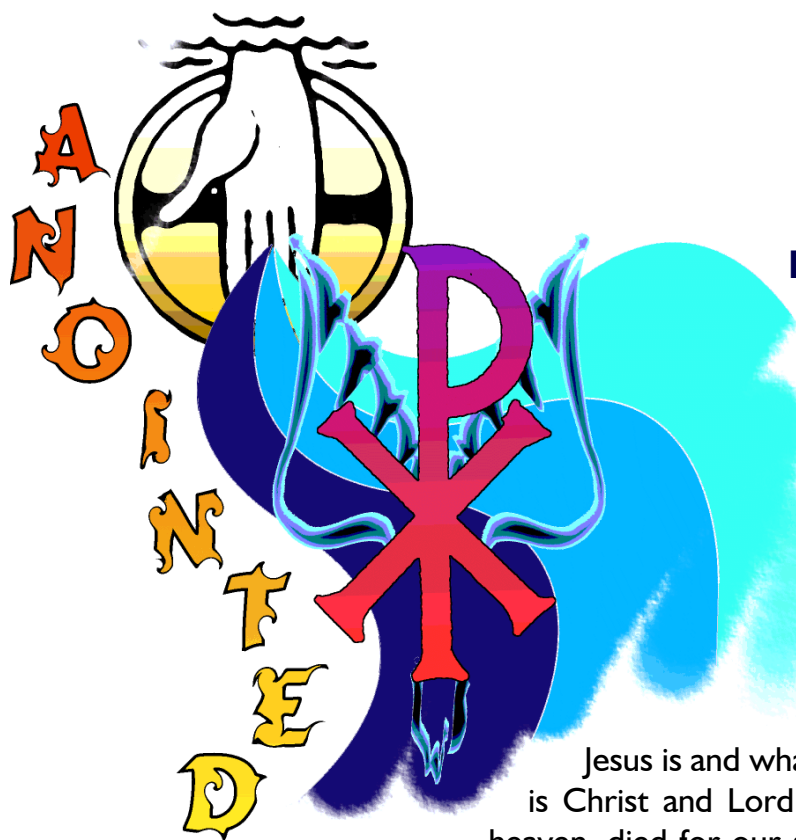


Activity: The Person and Work of Jesus

Using a hymnal, look up the **Apostle's Creed**. Figure out the word that fills in the blank of each sentence below, and find that word in the word search:

1. _____ means, "He will save His people from their sins."
2. Jesus is God's only _____.
3. Jesus is our _____.
4. Jesus was _____ by the Holy Spirit.
5. He _____ under Pontius Pilate.
6. Then He was _____, _____, and was _____.
7. After Jesus died, He _____ into hell.
8. The third day He _____ again from the dead.
9. He _____ into heaven and _____ at the right hand of the Father.
10. From the right hand, He will come to _____ the living and the dead.





Jesus is Baptized from Luke 3-4

Level 3 Sample

Introduction

Last lesson, we learned what the name Jesus means. It means, "He will save us from our sins."

We read a story about Jesus saving Peter from the waves and the wind. Jesus could save Peter because Jesus is the Son of God. He has power over all things.

We also learned that the disciples worshiped Jesus by confessing Him to be the Son of God. We also confess Who

Jesus is and what He has done for us. We confess that He is Christ and Lord, the Son of God. He came down from heaven, died for our sins, and now sits at the right hand of the

Father. He will come again to judge us.

Jesus saved us by dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. When we are baptized, we receive this forgiveness.

Today, we will learn about the baptism of Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit. In our baptisms, we are also anointed by the Holy Spirit. To be anointed is to have something poured on our head, like water or oil.

Because Jesus was anointed, He is called Christ. Christ means "the anointed one." The first two letters of Christ give us the -CH part of ICHTHUS.

Read the story about the baptism of Jesus and the Temptation that followed:

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil.

Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into

the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”



Based on the Gospel, answer the following questions:

1. When we are baptized, we are baptized “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” This is the Holy Trinity. How is each Person of the Holy Trinity present at Jesus’ baptism?
2. What happened right after Jesus was baptized?
3. What did the devil try to do to Jesus? Did he succeed? Why did he not succeed?
4. What prophet did Jesus read in the synagogue?
5. What things did the prophet Isaiah prophesy that Jesus would do?

Christ, the Anointed King

In the Bible, to anoint is to pour oil or water on the head of someone. Why was someone anointed? In the Old Testament, men were anointed to be kings of Israel.

King David was someone who was anointed to be king. (Read the box to the right.)

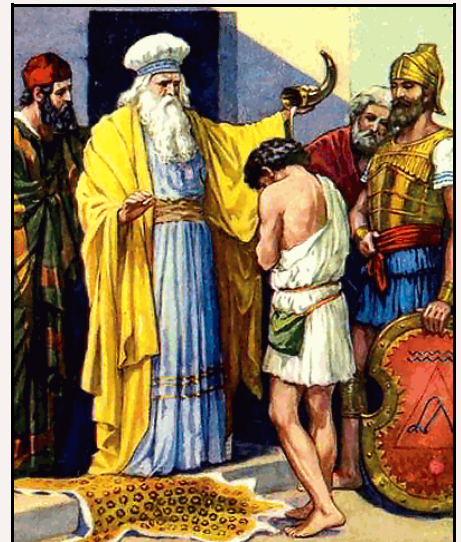
When David was anointed, God promised him many things. He promised David that his throne would last forever. David would always have a descendant to sit on his throne.

David’s son Solomon ruled on his throne, and Solomon’s son Rehoboam ruled on his throne too. Many, many sons of David ruled on his throne. However,

David anointed by Samuel

Samuel came to the house David, and God told him to anoint David to be the king. Samuel took a ram’s horn full of oil and poured it all over David’s head. From that moment, David became the “anointed one.”

The Hebrew word for “anointed one” is Messiah. The Greek translation of Messiah is Christ. This is why Jesus is called Christ.



מָשִׁיחַ = Messiah = “Anointed One”

after many years, there was no longer a son of David on his throne. The people of Israel had no king!

But the people of Israel remembered God's promise: There would be a king to rule over Israel forever. This king would be a great king. He would rule over Israel's enemies. He would protect them from evil. He would provide for all their needs. And so they waited and waited for this great king. They waited for the Messiah. They waited for the Christ.

Finally, the day came when Jesus was born. He was born the king of Israel. Yet, not everyone knew He was king. Only a few people knew He was the king of Israel.

But one day, Jesus came to John the Baptist at the Jordan River. John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and God the Father declared, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Jesus was shown to be the Messiah, the Christ.

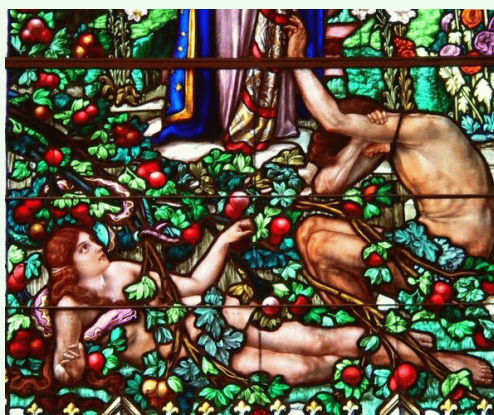
Christ, a King Stronger than Satan

In the Gospel or today, Jesus battled Satan in the desert after He was anointed. Satan is the ruler of this world. (Read the box to the right.)

But Jesus showed that He is stronger than the devil! When we are born, we are in the devil's kingdom, but after the baptism of Jesus, a new kingdom comes, the Kingdom of Heaven. In this kingdom, Jesus rules over the devil.

When we are baptized, we become part of His kingdom which has no end. The devil no longer rules over us. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, the King of kings. We are princes and princesses in the Kingdom of Heaven!

The Temptation of Adam and Eve



When God created Adam and Eve, Adam and Eve were like the king and queen of the new creation.

But when they listened to the devil instead of the Lord, they made the devil their king.

For this reason, the devil is called "the prince of this world."

When Jesus came, He brought the Kingdom of Heaven. He is a stronger king than Satan, and when we

Christ, a King for Us

After Jesus defeated the devil, He went into a synagogue and taught that He was the Anointed One. He showed how He is the Christ.

He said, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Underline the words that specifically explain what Christ means:

In this passage, Christ does many things for us as our king. He heals us; He frees us from sins; He opens our eyes; He saves us from death.

All these things were done when Jesus died on the cross. Look at the picture here. It shows Jesus as a king on the cross. How is it that a king would die on a cross? The cross is shameful and humble! But a king is powerful and proud!

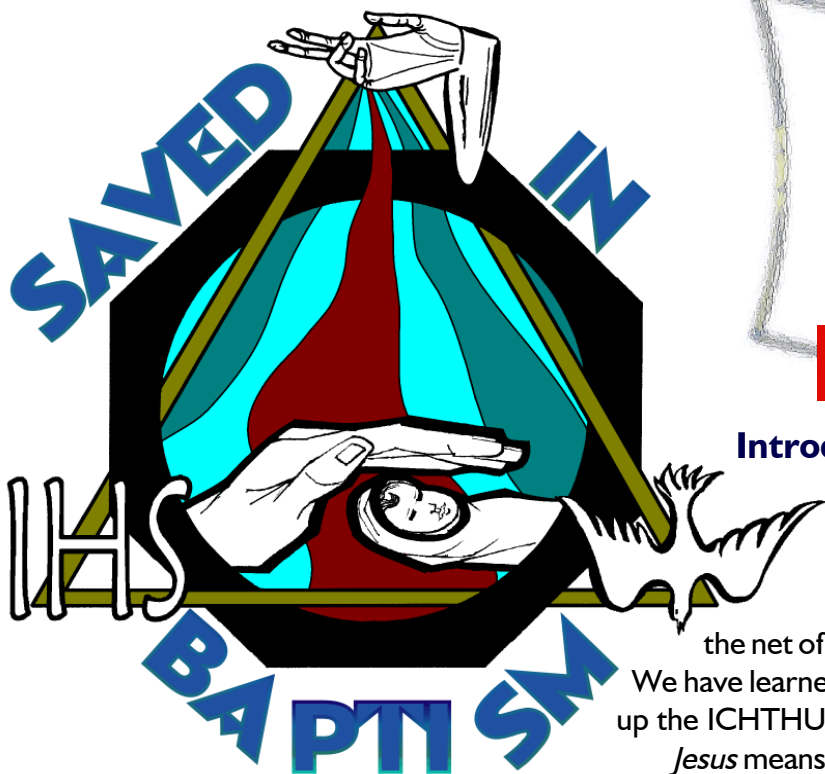
But that is how Jesus is king. He is a humble king. His throne was the cross. His crown was of thorns. He gave up His life for us, just as Jesus said, "Whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Activity: Sharing in His Reign

Jesus reigns over sin, death, the world, and the devil for us. All things are under His authority. When we are baptized, we share in Jesus' reign over all things. We become "little christs." Look up the following verses and determine whether they show our own rule over (S)in, (D)eath, de(V)il, or the (W)orld.



1. ____ Romans 16: 20 – And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.
2. ____ I John 2: 13 – I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one.
3. ____ I John 5: 4 – For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.
4. ____ I Corinthians 15: 26 – The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
5. ____ Hebrews 2: 14-15 – [Jesus] Himself likewise shared in [our flesh and blood, so] that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
6. ____ Revelation 20: 6 – Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
7. ____ Romans 6: 8-9 – Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.
8. ____ Romans 6: 14 – For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.



Baptized and saved!

from Mark 16
& Acts 2

Level 4 Sample

Introduction

We have now come to the last day of VBS. We have learned that we are like fish caught by the net of God's Word by the preaching of the Gospel. We have learned three of the four names or titles that make up the ICHTHUS: *Jesus*, *Christ*, and *Son of God*.

Jesus means "He will save us from our sins." Jesus saved us from our sins by coming down from heaven, being born of a Virgin, suffering and dying on the cross for our sins, rising again the third day, ascending into heaven, sitting at the right hand of God, and coming again to judge the living and the dead.

Christ means "the Anointed One." Christ is the Anointed One because He is the King of kings. He rules over all our enemies, like sin, death, and the devil. Because we are princes and princesses in Christ's Kingdom, we too rule over all our enemies. We become part of Jesus' Kingdom when we are baptized and believe in Him.

Jesus is the Son of God. This means that Jesus is truly God and Lord. He is almighty, and He is totally good. Jesus shows us Who God really is. God controls everything for the sake of those who call out to Him in love. We believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; one God, in three Persons.

Today we will learn about the last title of Jesus, *Savior*. *Savior* is the -S in ICHTHUS. We learned that *Jesus* means "He will save us from our sins." Jesus saved us by dying on the cross for our sins. But where do we actually receive this forgiveness? Where exactly are we saved? Where is Jesus our Savior?

Read the following two stories about the beginning of the Church and then answer the questions:

After He rose from the dead, Jesus sends out His disciples to preach and baptize

[Jesus] appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table.... And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

The First Church

[Peter preached these words in the first Christian sermon:]

"Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized.

Answer the following questions:

1. According to Jesus in the first story, who is saved?

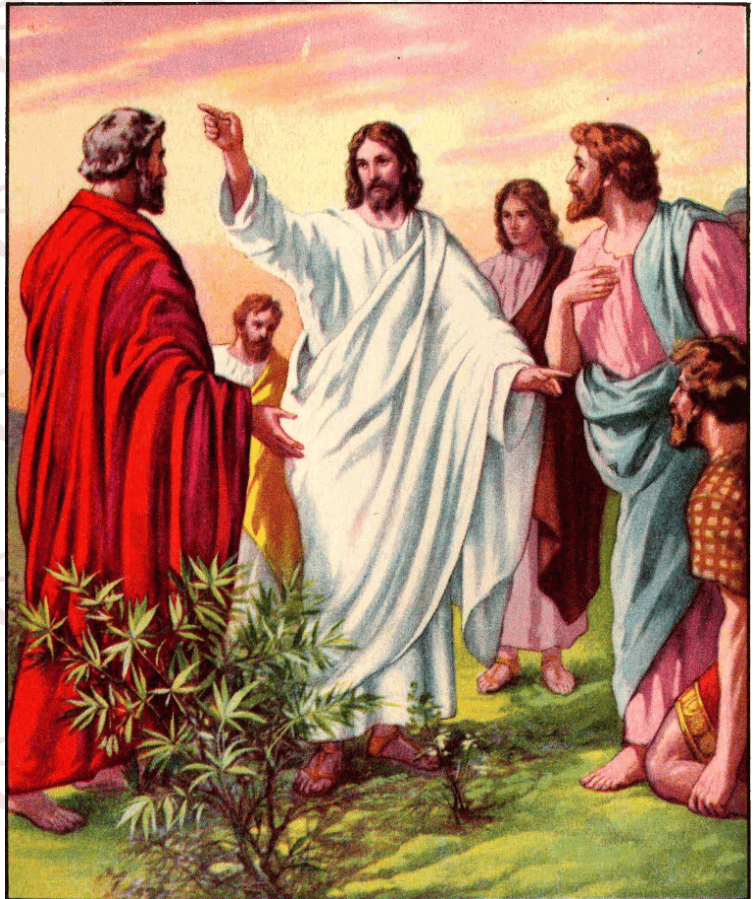
2. In the second story, the people were “cut to the heart” because they sinned and crucified Jesus. How were they going to get the forgiveness of sins?

3. In Whose name were they baptized?

4. For whom are the promises of baptism?

5. After Peter says, “Be saved from this perverse generation,” how were the people saved?

6. Where, then, do we find Jesus our Savior saving us?



Jesus sends out the apostles to preach the Gospel and baptize all nations

Saved

Today, we learn about Jesus our Savior. We just learned that He saves us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. In Baptism, this forgiveness is given to us.

To understand how this works, read the following story:

Marvin had a very wealthy great-uncle, but he didn't know about his uncle. He also didn't know that his uncle had willed Marvin half of his money. Marvin would receive all this money after the uncle died.

The day came when Marvin's uncle died. A friend of Marvin's uncle called Marvin and said, "Did you know you had a very wealthy uncle, and he has willed half his money to you?"

Marvin thought for a moment. He said to himself, "This sounds wonderful, but can it be true?" So he wasn't sure.

The next day, the lawyer for Marvin's uncle called Marvin. He said, "Marvin, I am your uncle's lawyer. I'm calling to tell you that he has left you a bucket load of money." Marvin was now getting excited. This was his uncle's lawyer, after all! A lawyer is an official that he could believe.

The following day, the lawyer came to Marvin's home. He showed Marvin all the documents that proved that his uncle had left him the money. And then, the lawyer showed Marvin a check for 760 million dollars. Marvin was excited beyond all belief. He was a millionaire!

Finally, the next day, Marvin went to the bank and deposited the money. And he went out to buy a new house.



This story is sort of like baptism, except that baptism is far greater than just gaining a paltry 760 million dollars.

When Jesus died, He gave His life for us. We inherited the riches of heaven. But like Marvin at first, if we heard about this from someone, we might wonder, "This sounds great, but is this for me?" We might not be sure.

When a pastor preaches to us that Jesus has given us His life, this is sort of like the lawyer telling Marvin that he had inherited lots of money. We hear it from someone called by God to tell us the Gospel, and are excited. We believe that we have great riches because someone "official" has told us!

When we are baptized, that's when we receive the forgiveness of sins. That's like when Marvin actually received the check for 760 million dollars.

Finally, the deposit of money in the bank is like our hope in the life of the world to come. Marvin had the money in the bank, and he had the joy of knowing that he was rich, but he didn't use it yet. Right now, the Holy Spirit is our deposit. We have the joy of knowing that we are rich, but we haven't received the kingdom yet. When we die and one day rise again, we will receive a "new house" that was purchased by the riches of Jesus' death for us.

Here's a trick question: When exactly did Marvin become a millionaire?

Here's another trick question: When exactly were we saved?

Day Four – Who can this be?

Nickolai: Hey Jessie, I have a question...

Jessie: What's that, Nickolai?

Nickolai: How does Jesus do all the things that He does?

Jessie: Like what?

Nickolai: Like walk on water, like turn water into wine, like give sight to the blind, like heal the lame, like all those things?

Jessie: How do YOU think He does all those things?

Nickolai: Is it because He can do magic? Does He say, "Abracadabra" or "Hocus Pocus" and then all of a sudden He can do those things?

Jessie: Nope. That's not why He can do all those things.

Nickolai: Is it because He's an illusionist, like those guys on the TV who walk across the Grand Canyon? Or who walk across the Niagara Falls?

Jessie: Nope. That's not how He does those things.

Nickolai: Is it because He's like a great prophet, like how Moses split the Red Sea in two, or like how Samson beat up a bunch of people with the jawbone of an ass, or like how Daniel kept the lion's mouth shut when he was in the den, or like how Elijah stopped the rain for three years? Does He have some gift from God that helps Him do these great things?

Jessie: You're getting warmer, Nickolai, but not quite.

Nickolai: Well I don't get it, then. How can Jesus do all those things?

Jessie: Let's ask the children. Children, Who has all the power to be able to stop a storm, or stop the wind from blowing, or stop the waves from being boisterous?

[When a child says, "God," Nickolai continues...]

Nickolai: Ohhhhhh, I see. So, Jesus is sort of like God...

Jessie: Nooooooo, you don't see! Children, is Jesus "sort of" like God?

[When the children say, "noooooo," Nickolai continues...]

Nickolai: Ohhhhhhhh, I see. So Jesus is like a part of God, sort of the way that my tail is a part of my body?

Jessie: Noooooooo, you don't see. Children, is Jesus God's tail?

[When the children say, "noooooo," Nickoali continues...]

Nickolai: Ohhhhhh, I see. So Jesus is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all rolled up into one Person?

Jessie: Noooooooo, you don't see. Children, is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all rolled up into one

Person called Jesus?

[When the children say, “noooooooo,” Nickolai continues...]

Nickolai: Ohhhhhhh, I see. So Jesus is God, but He pretended to look like man. He wasn't really a man, though. I got it!

Jessie: Noooooooo, you don't got it! Children, did Jesus only pretend to look like a man?

[When the children say, “noooooooo,” Nickolai continues...]

Nickolai: Oh, I give up! This is sooo confusing!! Is Jesus God? Is Jesus a man? Who's the Father? Who's the Holy Spirit?

Jessie: It is confusing, Nickolai, but don't worry. We are not supposed to understand it. Let's have the children answer all those questions you just asked...Children, is Jesus God?

[When the children say, “Yes,” Nickolai continues...]

Nickolai: Let me ask the next one...Children, is Jesus really a man?

[When the children say, “Yes,” Jessie continues...]

Jessie: Good, kids! Now, here's the tricky question. Is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit God?

[When the children say, “Yes,” Nickolai asks...]

Nickolai: But this is the hard one for me. Which one is Jesus? Is Jesus the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit? Can you kids help me out with that?

[When someone says, “the Son,” Jessie continues...]

Jessie: Very good! And that's what the kids are going to learn today. They're going to learn that Jesus is the Son of God. He's truly God, and He's truly man. He's both!

Nickolai: Ohhhhhh, I see!!! And THAT'S why Jesus can do all the things He did. Because He's the Son of God, very God of very God, of one substance with the Father.

Jessie: Now you got it!

Nickolai: Well, that's still all pretty complicating! I'll give any child who can figure all this out my half chewed pig's snout if he can understand that!

Jessie: I think they'll pass on that, Nickolai.

Friday Prayer

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Children: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.

from Psalm 79

Pastor: Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us!

Children: Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low.

Pastor: Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name;

Children: And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!

Pastor: Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die;

Children: So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever;

Pastor: We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus Christ, God's Only Son [pg. 7]

Scripture Reading

Mark 16: 14-16; Acts 2: 36-41

The Apostles' Creed

[back page]

Message

Saved in Holy Baptism

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

Jesus Christ Gods' Only Son

(for other tunes, see back of hymnal: L.M.)

Jesus Christ God's only Son
Savior, Who salvation won
Draw us to Your Church, O Lord
By the comfort of Your Word.

Jesus, name that we hold dear,
Name that teaches us most clear
Why You came to sinful men.
Oh, save us, from all our sin!

Christ, the long-awaited King,
You, God's kingdom daily bring.
Now anointed for this task,
Reign over all for us, we ask.

Son of God, the Father's own,
Who at His right hand alone,
His almighty power shares.
Answer all our heartfelt prayers.

Savior, by the cross You gave
Gifts for little ones You save.
In baptismal waters here,
For Your children You come near.