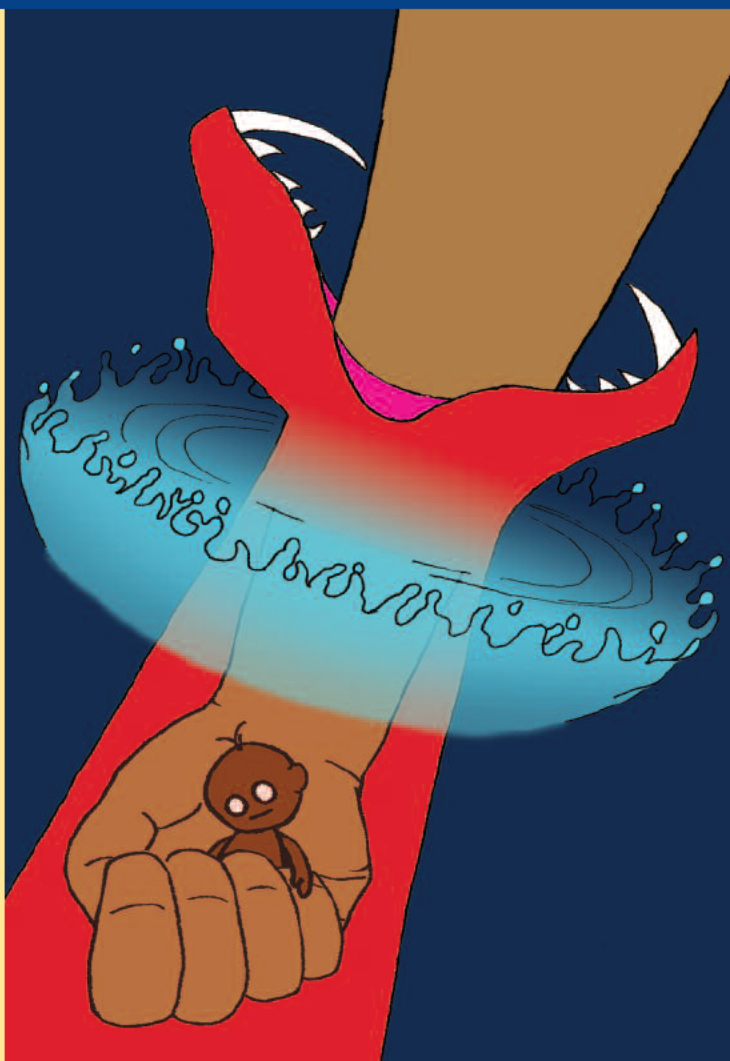


# Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

A self-study  
course  
about the  
biblical call  
to baptize  
children

*by Dr. Terry  
Louis Schultz*



# Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

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*A self study course about  
the biblical call to baptize children*

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By  
Dr. Terry Louis Schultz



# Multi-Language Productions

Bringing the Word to the World

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

To the orphanage directors, their staff, and the precious children  
of Leogane and Carrefour, Haiti.

Directors, it has been a humbling honor to work with you.

You followed the Holy Spirit  
who saved your children through baptism.

*“The people rise like a lioness”* Numbers 23:24.

This book is produced by Multi-Language Productions of the Board for  
World Missions of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

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Printed in 2014

ISBN 1-931891-80-6

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***Level Two, Book 5***

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## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

INTRODUCTION

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Introduction**

---

Corina and Ron were very excited: They were going to have a baby! They had waited for years. Like all parents, they wanted to do their best in caring for their child. What a blessing God was giving them!

They were also new Christians. They attended Solid Rock Christian Church, where Pastor Pedro led the flock. Corina and Ron knew they were saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. Now, as parents, they had a question that was new to them. They were facing a huge decision.

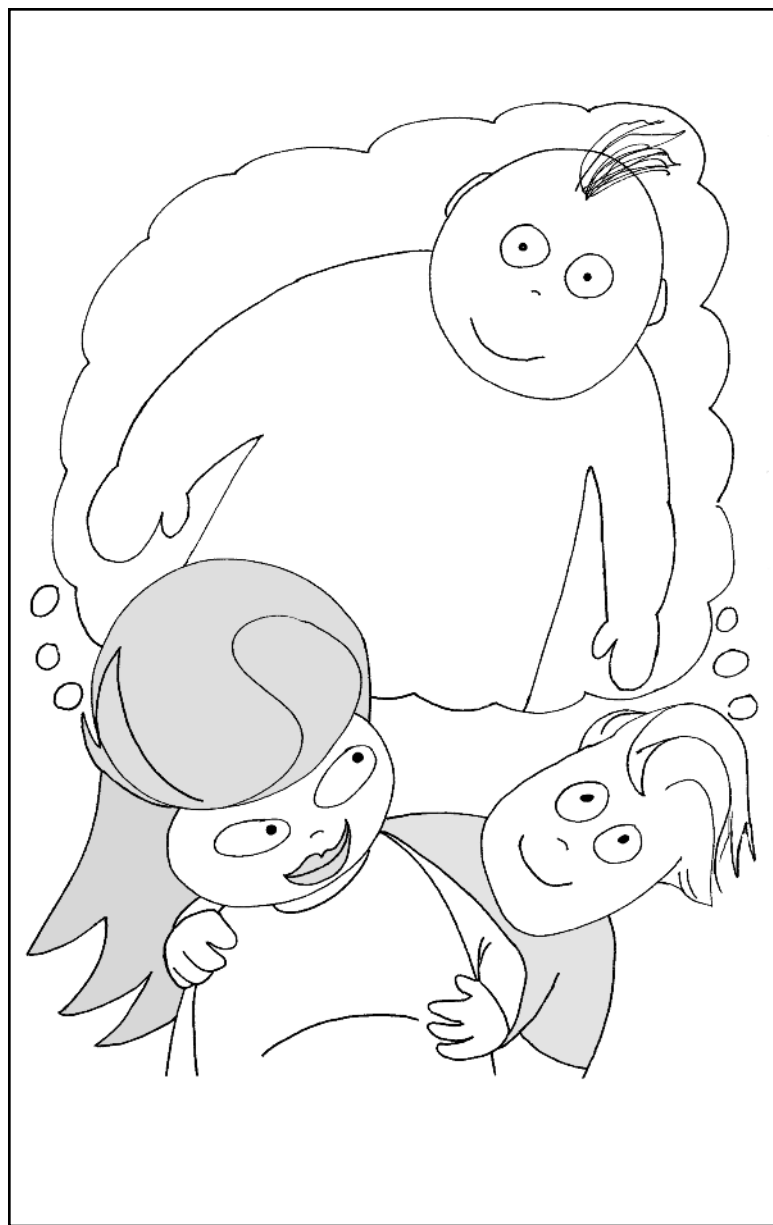
“At Solid Rock Christian Church, they baptize babies,” Ron said to Corina one day. “Not many churches in our town do that.”

“Some do, some don’t,” Corina agreed. “How can we know what to do?”

“Pastor Pedro always says, ‘What does the Bible teach?’” Ron suddenly remembered. “If Pastor Pedro is baptizing babies, there must be a reason for it in the Bible.”

“We could ask Pastor Pedro to tell us what the Bible teaches,” Corina said brightly. “You know how he always says ‘Don’t just take my word for it....’”

“Be like the Bereans. ‘They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true.’”

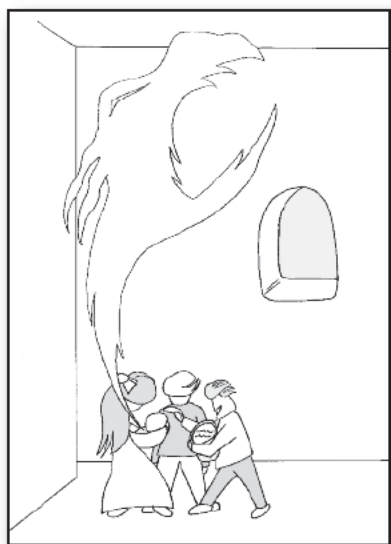


*Happy Ron and pregnant Corina  
dreaming of their big baby.*



Both Ron and Corina were saying the words together. This made them laugh as they finished the verse (Acts 17:11).

“Let’s go right now,” Ron suddenly said. “We can ask Pastor Pedro to explain why he baptizes babies and young children.” Corina and Ron eagerly went out the door and down the dirt path to the home of Pastor Pedro.



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 1:  
Born under the power of the Devil**

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 1, Lesson 1:**

The battle in heaven

---

Soon Pastor Pedro was giving Corina and Ron a warm welcome. He brought them into his humble home. They were excited, so he asked them if they had any news. Yes! They were expecting a baby! Pedro's wife Jasmine gave Corina a hug, invited them into the front room, and served glasses of coconut drinks to all of them. Then Ron got right to the point. "Why does our church baptize babies and young children?"

"To answer your question, we must go far back into time," Pedro replied. "We must put ourselves back to when God created the world. In the first six days of time, God created everything. He made the plants, animals, and Adam and Eve. In addition, he also created the things we cannot see, the heavens and the angels. We learned about this in the first book of the Bible called Genesis. Everything started out good. The Bible tells us that as those first six days ended, 'God saw everything he had made. And it was very good' (Genesis 1:31).

"Sometime soon after this, a large number of the angels rose up against God. The Bible doesn't say just when they did it. Nor do we know why they did it. Many think that these angels were filled with pride. Why do people think that the angels' sin may have been pride? Because, when the apostle Paul sent a letter to the young church worker, Timothy, he wrote about the angels' sin of pride. Paul warned Timothy that a new church worker could become proud. 'Then he would be judged just like the devil'



*The Devil being cast out of heaven.*

(1 Timothy 3:6). The devil, the proud leader of the angels who turned against God, hoped to crush God and rule over everything in heaven and earth.

“God did not spare angels when they sinned. Instead, he sent them to hell. He put them in dark prisons. He will keep them there until he judges them” (2 Peter 2:4). The devil and the demons (another word for the bad angels) were defeated and thrown out of heaven. God sent the demons to hell. But he lets them revisit the earth at times. They still do this today. They try to lead people into sin, attacking people, trying to destroy their faith in Jesus. There is great danger for any person who does not have faith and forgiveness. Without forgiveness, the devil can claim a person’s soul. He or she will suffer in hell forever.”

“Listen carefully,” Pedro said to Corina and Ron. “It is because of the devil and his evil ways that we baptize babies and children. You remember the story of the devil and Adam and Eve. God tells us in the Bible. The devil tempted Eve. Then both Adam and Eve, the first two people on earth, our first parents, sinned. The punishment for their sin was not small. It was death for all people!

“Let me explain to you exactly what happened back in the Garden of Eden. I will show you what Adam and Eve and the devil have to do with your baby. You will see why your baby needs to be baptized!”

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

1. To explain the need for baptism, Pastor Pedro started with the book of:
  - a. Judges
  - b. Genesis
  - c. John
2. Everything God created was very good until some of the \_\_\_\_\_ turned against God.
3. The evil angels, led by the \_\_\_\_\_, wanted Adam and Eve to turn \_\_\_\_\_ God also.

(Check your answers on page 26)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 1, Lesson 2:**

The fall of Adam and Eve

---

Ron and Corina felt uneasy. Somehow, what happened back in the Garden of Eden with the devil and Adam and Eve could harm their soon-to-be-born baby. But how? The couple sat quietly as Pastor Pedro continued.

“The Bible calls the devil a liar, a murderer, and the old evil one. There is a good reason for that. God defeated him, threw him out of heaven, and sent him to hell. What did the devil do? In anger, he planned to destroy Adam and Eve. The devil hated that they were the ‘crown (the best part) of God’s creation.’ To this day, the devil wants every person, even a baby, to go to hell with him and the demons.

“The devil came up with a tricky invitation for Eve. It sounded good, but it was only evil. Before I talk about it, remember that God had placed a special tree in the Garden of Eden. The Bible calls it the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam not to eat its fruit. God warned that if he or his wife ate the fruit of this tree, they would die. Why did God place this tree in the garden and then say that they should not eat the fruit from it? God’s command about the tree gave Adam and Eve a way to show their love and respect for God. They could worship God by doing exactly what he told them!

“The sneaky devil decided to take the form of the most clever wild animal in the garden, a snake. One day the devil, hidden in the form of a snake, eased over to Eve and



*Eve with the serpent.*



started talking to her. ‘Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any tree in the garden?’ the devil asked Eve.

“Eve decided to answer the snake. She said that they could eat from the trees in the garden, but not from the special tree. That fruit, she said, was not allowed. If they ate it, they would die.

“The devil replied, ‘You can be sure that you won’t die.’ With these words, the devil was calling God a liar. He added, ‘God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God.’

“The devil’s words were outrageous. But they were also very crafty. For Eve began to wonder if God was telling the truth. Was he hiding something good from them? Could they trust God? What would happen if they became as wise as God? That is just what the devil boldly suggested.

“Eve fell for the devil’s lie. She no longer believed that God was completely good. She reached for the forbidden fruit and took a bite. Adam also took a bite. Immediately, they changed. Sin had entered their lives. Everything changed. Their bodies would die. They now belonged to the devil. They had nothing but death in hell ahead of them. The Bible is clear: ‘When you sin, the pay you get is death’ (Romans 6:23). Adam and Eve’s perfect life with God was over. Their sin would be punished.”

“What does this story of Adam and Eve have to do with my baby?” asked Corina in a worried voice. “Adam and Eve’s actions way back then were bad. But how can that possibly hurt my child?”

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

“I will explain that to you now,” Pedro replied in a very serious voice.

### **Things to Remember:**

4. The devil is the enemy of all people, including tiny \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The first person that the devil tempted to turn away from God was:
  - a. Adam
  - b. Cain
  - c. Eve
6. To tempt Eve, the devil used the form of a \_\_\_\_\_ and told \_\_\_\_\_ about God.
7. Both Adam and Eve turned away from God, and the result was they would:
  - a. Die
  - b. Be wise
  - c. Be powerful

(Check your answers on page 26)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 1, Lesson 3:**

Born with a sinful nature

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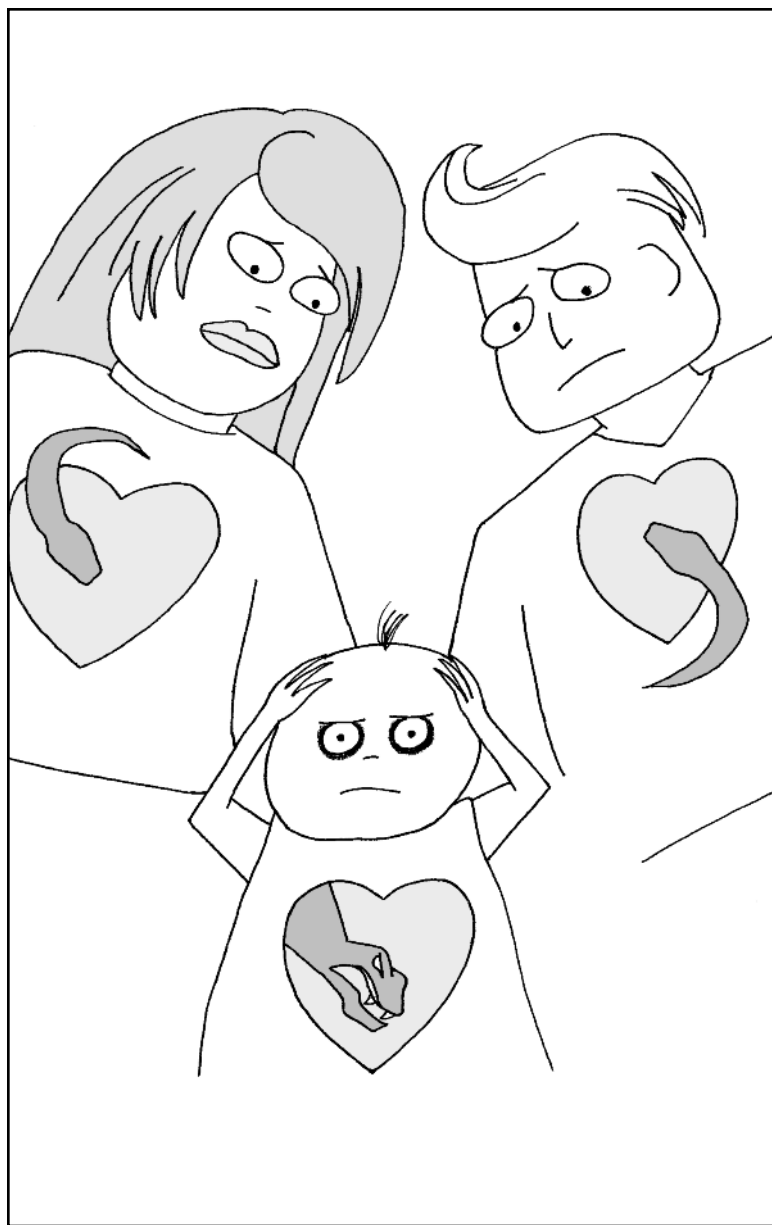
Corina and Ron looked at each other. Fear was growing inside them. What would they hear next? Pastor Pedro quickly went on.

“God tells us in his Word that ‘many people were made sinners because one man did not obey’ (Romans 5:19a). That is why every sinner must ask, ‘How can mere people really be pure?’ (Job 25:4b).

“We are all children of Adam and Eve,” Pedro continued. “Because they were the first two people living on earth, they are the parents of everyone, and we are their children. After Adam and Eve believed the devil’s lie, they changed. They became sinful. Therefore, their children would be sinful also. Listen carefully: Every one of us is born with a sinful nature that we inherit from Adam and Eve.”

This sinful nature we are born with is called “original sin.” How bad is this problem? One of our teaching books, called the catechism, says that original sin is “the total corruption of our whole human nature, inherited from our first parents, which makes us inclined only to evil and unable and unwilling to do that which is good.”\*

Ron let out a long, deep groan as he heard this awful truth. Pedro went on. “Ask anyone who is raising children. Little children are sinful by nature. They disobey. They are selfish, self-centered, lose their tempers. They have fits of anger. They fight...”



*Every one of us is born with a sinful nature  
that we inherit from our parents.*

“Wait a minute,” Corina broke in, her soft voice rising.  
“You are saying my baby will be born a sinner? ‘Inclined only to evil?’ How can you say that about my little baby?”  
Ron too looked upset and raised his hand to speak.

Pedro’s finger told them to wait. “I speak my words out of love for your baby,” he gently reminded the couple. “Don’t close your ears to what I say. God tells us that every baby enters this world as a lost sinner. King David wrote, ‘I know I’ve been a sinner ever since I was born. I’ve been a sinner ever since my mother became pregnant with me’ (Psalm 51:5).”

Corina and Ron looked at each other. They could not deny the clear words of the Bible. “What does it mean that my baby is born sinful?” Corina asked, not wanting to hear this at all. “What are you saying?”

“It means that your newborn baby will need to be set free from the tight hold of the devil!” Pedro replied.

“My newborn baby will be in the hands of the devil?”  
Corina cried out in fear. “That does not seem possible! I don’t get it!”

“Every single person is sinful at birth. Everyone needs to be set free from the devil,” Pedro replied. “You are indeed hearing frightening news right now. But there is also very good news for you from God. Let me explain.”

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

8. Because Adam and Eve sinned, they brought sin to all \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Even tiny \_\_\_\_\_ are sinful from the time their life begins.
10. Our sinful nature makes us unwilling and unable to do \_\_\_\_\_.
11. All people, even babies, need to be set free from sin, death, and the power of the \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 26)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 1, Lesson 4:**

**Born spiritually dead**

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Corina and Ron were upset. Who would feel any different? Pastor Pedro had just told them that their baby would be sinful when it is born. How could it get free from the power of the devil?

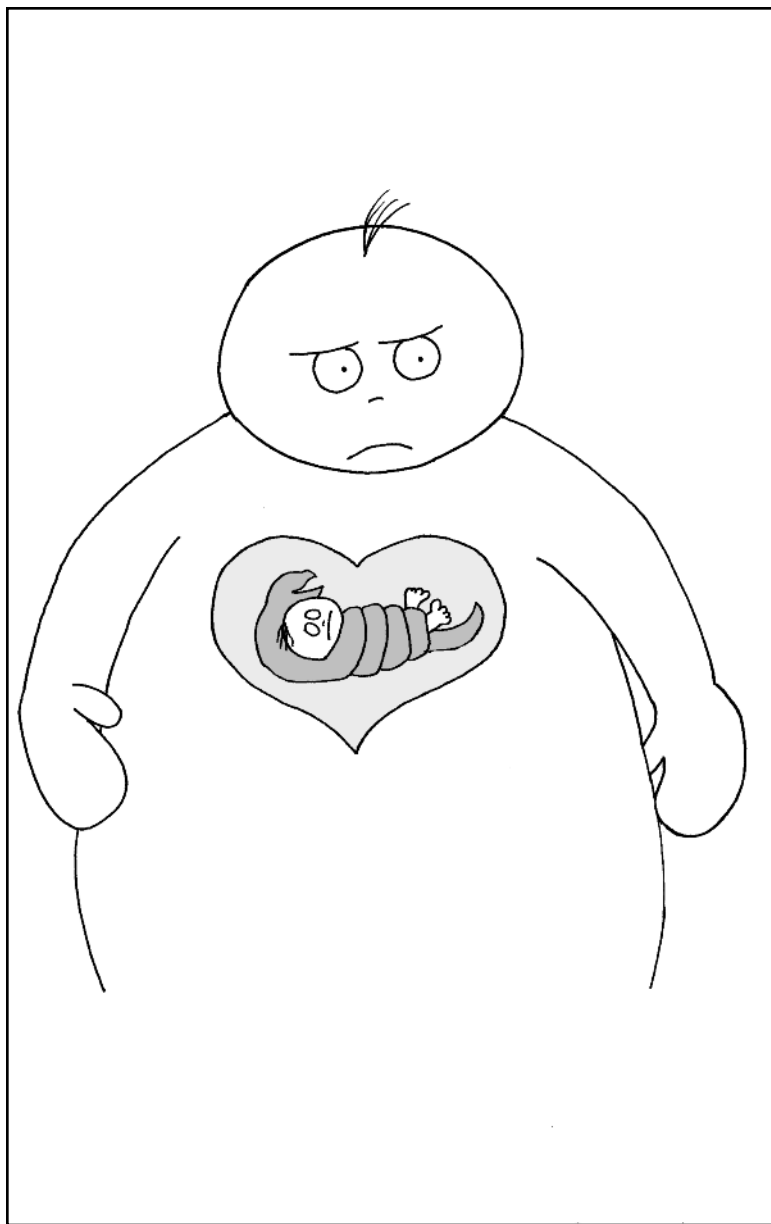
“You are loving parents. Your baby is important to you. You want it to live as a child of God both now and in heaven,” Pedro began. “This is why you should have your baby baptized.

“Think about it this way. Why do parents bring a very sick child to the hospital? They want the doctor to tell them what is wrong and how to cure the problem. Now you have come to me, your pastor. You are asking about your baby. I must tell you that your baby will be in danger when he or she arrives in this world. I am also telling you that the power of God can set your child free from the devil and give it life forever in heaven!”

At last, hope began to fill Corina and Ron.

Pedro quickly went on, “Listen to what the Bible says. First, it brings some very bad news. Every child is born sinful (Psalm 51:5). Then the news gets worse. Who wants every sinful child to be with him in hell forever? The devil. The devil can say to our holy, perfect God, ‘This child is sinful. She deserves to be sent to hell.’ This is very hard for us to hear, but the devil has it right. Remember what the

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



*We enter the world physically alive but spiritually dead!*



Bible clearly teaches. ‘One man’s sin [Adam’s sin] brought guilt to all people’ (Romans 5:18).

“Now you are saying my baby is going to hell?” Corina cried out. She was troubled all over again. “I can’t take much more of this!”

“Every one of us is like that when we are born. We are lost sinners. Guilty. We need a Savior,” Pedro continued. His voice was quiet yet firm. “This is the simple truth. We have no faith in God when we are born. We are dead to him. This is what Paul wrote to the congregations in and around the city of Ephesus: “You were living in your sins and lawless ways. But in fact you were dead” (Ephesians 2:1).

Corina was so upset, she could hardly speak. “Guilty, dead before God, held by the devil. Don’t you have anything good to tell me about my baby?” she softly begged. Tears started running down her cheeks.

Pastor Pedro replied with a huge, comforting smile that lit up the room. “Corina, I have the greatest news in the world for you! God can remove the devil’s hold on your baby. He can make that baby his own dear child! He can take your baby in his arms, wash his or her sins completely away, and guard your baby’s life from the devil! All these things happen when we follow God’s command and baptize a baby.”

Corina and Ron’s eyes went wide in wonder as they heard this good news. Here was hope for their baby who needed to be set free from the devil!

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

12. When babies enter human life, God says that they are:
  - a. Holy
  - b. Innocent
  - c. Spiritually dead
13. Because of their sinful nature, babies are \_\_\_\_\_ and deserve to be sent to hell.
14. God can remove the \_\_\_\_\_ hold on babies.
15. Even babies can be set free through God's gift of:
  - a. Baptism
  - b. Medicine
  - c. Sleep

(Check your answers on page 26)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 1, Lesson 5:**

Freeing children from the Devil

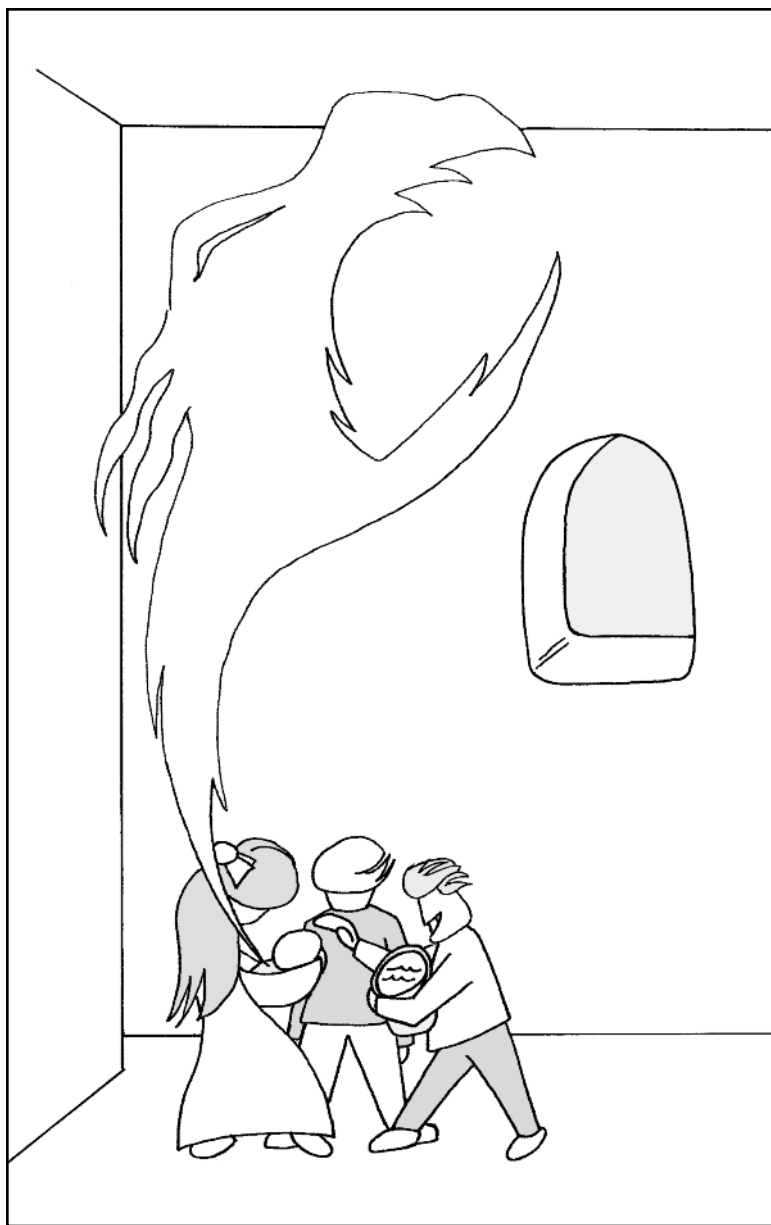
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“What is baptism?” Pedro began. “It is a holy act commanded by God himself. Water connected to God’s Word is put on a person. We apply water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as Jesus taught in Matthew 28:19. Baptism in the name of the Triune God means that God is taking you into his family. Through baptism, God washes away sin. Because of his Son, our Savior, he forgives every sin. Even a baby becomes a member of God’s very own family when it receives baptism! The Bible says: ‘You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes’” (Galatians 3:26-27).

Corina and Ron felt much better as the beautiful words washed over them. Pedro smiled as he explained. “‘You have put on Christ’ is another way of saying that all our sins are forgiven in baptism. We are ‘covered’ by the holy life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In other words, through baptism the child ‘puts on’ Jesus’ perfect life! Through baptism the forgiveness of sins that Jesus earned on the cross covers and protects the child. He or she is forgiven. Sometimes you may have seen children wear white outfits when parents bring them to baptism. This reminds us that now the holiness of Jesus covers them, and God forgives them completely!”

Pedro continued excitedly, “Because God forgives the baby through baptism, the devil can no longer hold onto the

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



*The demon being cast out of the baby.*

child! Through his death on the cross Jesus was able to ‘destroy the one who rules over the kingdom of death. I’m talking about the devil’ (Hebrews 2:14). In baptism, God brings a child from death to a life of faith in him. God frees that child from Satan’s powerful hold! Paul makes this point in his letter to Titus. ‘He [God] saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. God poured out the Spirit on us freely because of what Jesus Christ our Savior has done. His grace made us right with God. So now we have received the hope of eternal life as God’s children’” (Titus 3:5b-7).

As soon as they heard this, Corina and Ron were very happy. It lifted a heavy weight from their hearts.

Pedro continued, “During baptism things happen that we cannot see with our eyes. Do you remember when the Wilsons’ baby was baptized last month? During the service, I talked about the faith that the Holy Spirit creates in the baby through baptism. Remember? I had several questions for the baby about her new faith. Now, baby Melinda is too young to talk and answer my questions, or even to understand my questions. So the Godparents, also called sponsors, answered my questions for the baby! The Godparents gave a voice to the faith that the Holy Spirit created in the baby during baptism.”

“I asked baby Melinda, through the Godparents: ‘Do you reject the devil and all his works and all his wicked ways?’ The Godparents, giving voice to the baby with a God-given faith replied, ‘Yes, I reject them!’ What a powerful moment!

“What happened during this baptism? Jesus paid for the baby’s sins, so the devil could no longer hold onto the

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

child! God drove the devil away! God gave new life to the baby. It was now his child.”

“It’s hard to believe there could be so much power in applying water to a baby,” Ron said in surprise. “Driving the devil away. There is that much power in baptism? How can this be?”

“The power of the Almighty, the Triune God, is at work in baptism!” Pedro strongly replied. “I will show you from God’s Word!”

### **Things to Remember:**

16. Baptism is \_\_\_\_\_ put on to a person in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
17. Baptism gives the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins and membership in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
18. In baptism, God brings a baby from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ begins to live in a baptized baby, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is driven away.

(Check your answers on page 26)

**REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**  
**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 1**

---

When children enter life, they are sinful and need a Savior. This is because they receive a sinful nature from our first parents, Adam and Eve. As a result, children are dead before God as soon as their life begins. They belong to the devil. It upsets parents to hear this. But God provides a way to rescue children, even tiny babies. God the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in them through baptism. He takes them out of the devil's control and brings them into God's family. He does this by giving them the gift of forgiveness that Jesus won for all people when he died on the cross. Through baptism, God gives, even to tiny babies, freedom from the power of the devil, and he brings them into the kingdom of God. The devil cannot hold on to them. God forgives all of the sins of everyone who receives baptism.

**Things to remember-Answers-Part 1**

1. Genesis; 2. angels; 3. devil, against; 4. babies; 5. Eve; 6. snake, lies; 7. die; 8. people; 9. babies; 10. good; 11. devil; 12. spiritually dead; 13. guilty; 14. devil's; 15. Baptism; 16; water; 17. forgiveness, family; 18. death, life; 19. God, devil.

**TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children

**Part 1**

*Please review "Things to remember."*

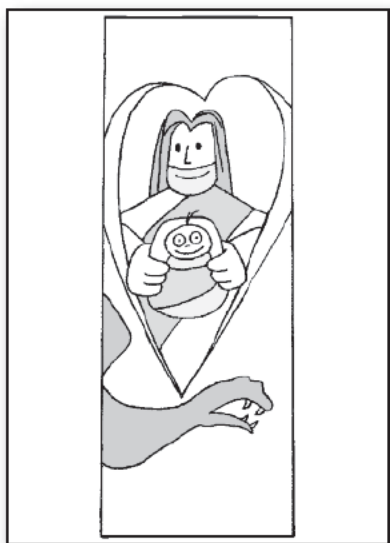
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1. God's creation was very good until some of the \_\_\_\_\_ turned against God.
2. The evil angels, led by the \_\_\_\_\_, wanted Adam and Eve to join them in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The devil is the enemy of all people, including tiny \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first person that the devil tempted to turn away from God.
5. Both Adam and Eve turned away from God, and the result was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Because Adam and Eve sinned, they brought sin and death to all \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Even tiny \_\_\_\_\_ are sinful and dead before God from the time their life begins.
8. Because of their sin, babies are \_\_\_\_\_ and deserve to be sent to hell.
9. Babies need to receive freedom from sin, death, and the power of the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Even babies can receive this freedom through God's gift of \_\_\_\_\_.



11. Baptism is \_\_\_\_\_ put on a person together with God's name and promises.
12. Baptism gives the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins and membership in God's \_\_\_\_\_.
13. In baptism, God brings a baby from \_\_\_\_\_ before God and gives them \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ begins to live in a baptized baby, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is driven away.

(Check your answers on page 178)



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 2:**  
**How can baptism do such great things?**

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2, Lesson 6,a:**

The power of Jesus Christ at work in baptized children

---

“We were talking about little babies and baptism. Babies need baptism. Do you remember why?” Pastor Pedro asked this as he reached for his Bible.

“You said my baby is a sinner. It is lost, dead before God, and in the tight hold of the devil.” Corina was on edge and worried as she said this.

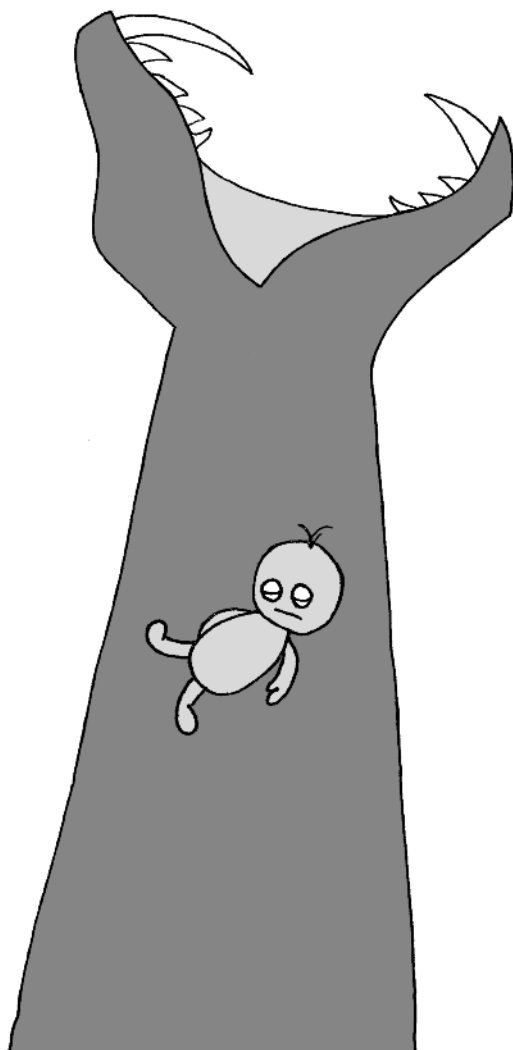
“That is how the Bible describes all of us when we are born,” Pedro said gently. “Do you remember what God led King David to say? ‘I know I’ve been a sinner ever since I was born’ (Psalm 51:5). Sin makes God angry. The apostle Paul writes, ‘God was angry with us and everyone else because of the kind of people we were’ (Ephesians 2:3). Sin makes us guilty. God says, ‘One man’s sin brought guilt to all people’ (Romans 5:18). Adam’s sin makes all of us evil. Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, every child begins life in the tight hold of the devil. Babies are dead before God. They are not in God’s family when their lives begin.

“Let me make some drawings for you,” Pedro offered. He pulled out a large drawing pad and a marker. “I like to use pictures to teach about baptism. I will make a drawing of a little boy. He looks fine to us. What does God see in this little boy? God says that he sees sin. Like every child, this boy is a sinner as soon as his life begins. The sin that is in him comes from Adam and Eve. Do you agree?”

### **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

Corina and Ron agreed that the child in the drawing was not an innocent baby. It was a sinner. The sin came from Adam and Eve.

Pedro finished his simple drawing and turned his pad towards Corina and Ron.



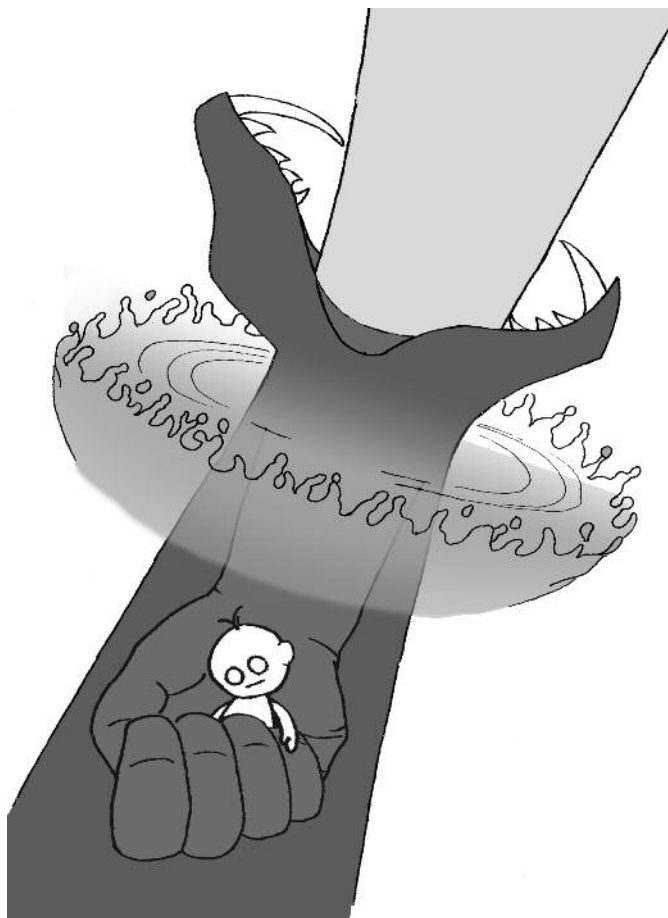
“The devil has the little boy’s soul,” Pedro said. “‘When you sin, the pay you get is death.’ A child that is dead to God is in the belly of the beast.”

The picture frightened Corina and Ron. The devil looked like a huge snake. It had swallowed up the little boy! Corina and Ron could not get rid of their fear. Would that happen to their baby?

“According to God’s Word, every child born into the world has this problem. Sin is in them. It is in their hearts and minds. They are dead before God. They belong to the devil,” Pedro said again.

Corina and Ron never thought their baby would be in such great danger! They did not know what to say. Moments passed. Then Pedro, in a calm voice, spoke.

“So, what does God do about this? How does God set a child free from the devil?” Pedro quickly added a few lines to the drawing. Then, he handed the picture back to the parents. Corina’s hands were shaking as she took the drawing pad from Pedro.



The powerful hand of Jesus pushed through the jaws of the snake. Jesus took hold of the baby! He lifted it to himself.

“This is what happens during baptism,” Pedro said with excitement. Then, he added water to the drawing in order to picture the work of baptism. “Jesus has the power to set your baby free from the devil!”

“Jesus saves a baby from the beast through baptism? How can this be?” Corina asked. She could not take her eyes from the picture.

“Hear the wonderful words of God in Romans 6:3-6,”  
Pedro replied.

All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into his death? By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ, we also can live a new life.

By being baptized, we have been joined with him in his death. We will certainly also be joined with him in his resurrection. We know that what we used to be was nailed to the cross with him. That happened so our sinful bodies would lose their power. We are no longer slaves of sin.

“What does all that mean?” Ron asked. “We have been joined with him in his death? Our sinful bodies lose their power? I have no idea what these verses mean!”

“Listen carefully,” Pedro answered. “Here is what Paul is saying. In baptism, Jesus takes hold of us. First, he takes us to his grave. This is our grave too. He died in our place. His holy death takes away our sin. Sin has no more power over us. Then, Jesus gives us new life. The same thing happens when a baby receives baptism. Sin has no more power to destroy the child. The devil cannot hold onto it any longer. Jesus is giving the baby new life. It belongs to God!

“The things that happened to Jesus somehow happen to my baby?” Corina asked. She felt all mixed up. “Our baby joins in Christ's death and his return to life? I have never heard anything so strange!”

“Let me explain the surprising power in baptism. Let's study one step at a time,” Pedro offered. Once again he reached for his markers and drawing pad.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

1. Babies are born \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ before God,  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ claims them.
2. Jesus has the power to rescue them. He does this  
through:
  - a. baptism
  - b. good luck charms
  - c. prayer
3. Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ a baby to Jesus' death, burial, and  
resurrection.

(Check your answers on page 54)



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2, Lesson 6,b:**

The child becomes a partner in Jesus' death

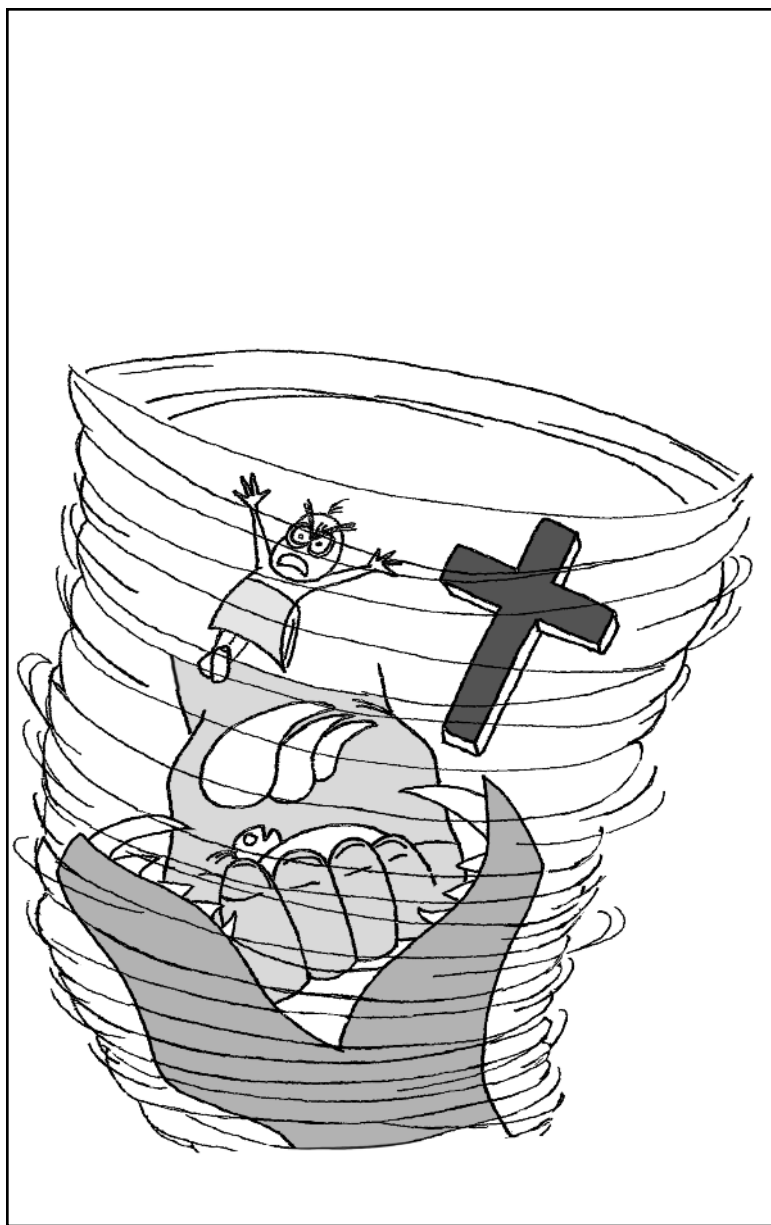
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Pedro drew on his pad as he explained Paul's words to Corina and Ron. "Remember what Paul wrote. 'All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into his death?... what we used to be was nailed to the cross with him. That happened so our sinful bodies would lose their power' (Romans 6:3,6).

"Remember what we learned about Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross has paid for the sin and guilt of the whole world. Here, Paul says that baptism connects us with Jesus. First, it joins us with the death of Jesus. When Paul says, 'What we used to be,' he is talking about *the problem we had as soon as our lives began. The sin we received from Adam and Eve made us dead before God. We were enemies of God. We belonged to the devil. Then, baptism nailed our sin right up there with Jesus Christ! The Bible says that Jesus hung on the cross to pay for all sins. Baptism makes us sure that our sins are right up there with him!*"

Pedro handed his pad to Corina and Ron. What a surprising picture! The sin of the baby flew from the baby to the cross of Christ!

"Let me repeat," Pedro said. "We know that Jesus' death pays for the sins of the world. Baptism makes us sure that Jesus died for our sins too. Sin no longer has the power to control us or to destroy us. Baptism nails our sins to the cross of Jesus. That is what Paul means when he says,



*The evil nature of the child flings toward the cross.*

‘What we used to be was nailed to the cross with him. That happened so our sinful bodies would lose their power.’

“Our sinful bodies... lose their power,” Pedro repeated. “The devil can no longer hold on to us! Jesus takes our sins away and gives us new life.” Paul says later on, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus [in baptism] are no longer under God’s sentence” (Romans 8:1). They are forgiven!

Corina and Ron were finally smiling again. They were beginning to understand. In baptism, Jesus would wash sin’s deadly power from their baby. Jesus would remove it by taking it to the cross. “Why does Paul add that we are ‘buried with Christ’?” Ron asked.

Pedro reached for his pad and markers and quickly added to his drawing.

**Things to Remember:**

4. In baptism, Jesus removes a person’s \_\_\_\_\_ by taking it to the cross.
5. Thanks to baptism, sin no longer has any \_\_\_\_\_ over that person.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ no longer has the baptized person in his power.

(Check your answers on page 54)

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:

A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children

### Part 2, Lesson 6,c:

#### Buried with Christ through baptism

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Pedro began, “The exact words of Paul are, ‘By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death’” (Romans 6:4).

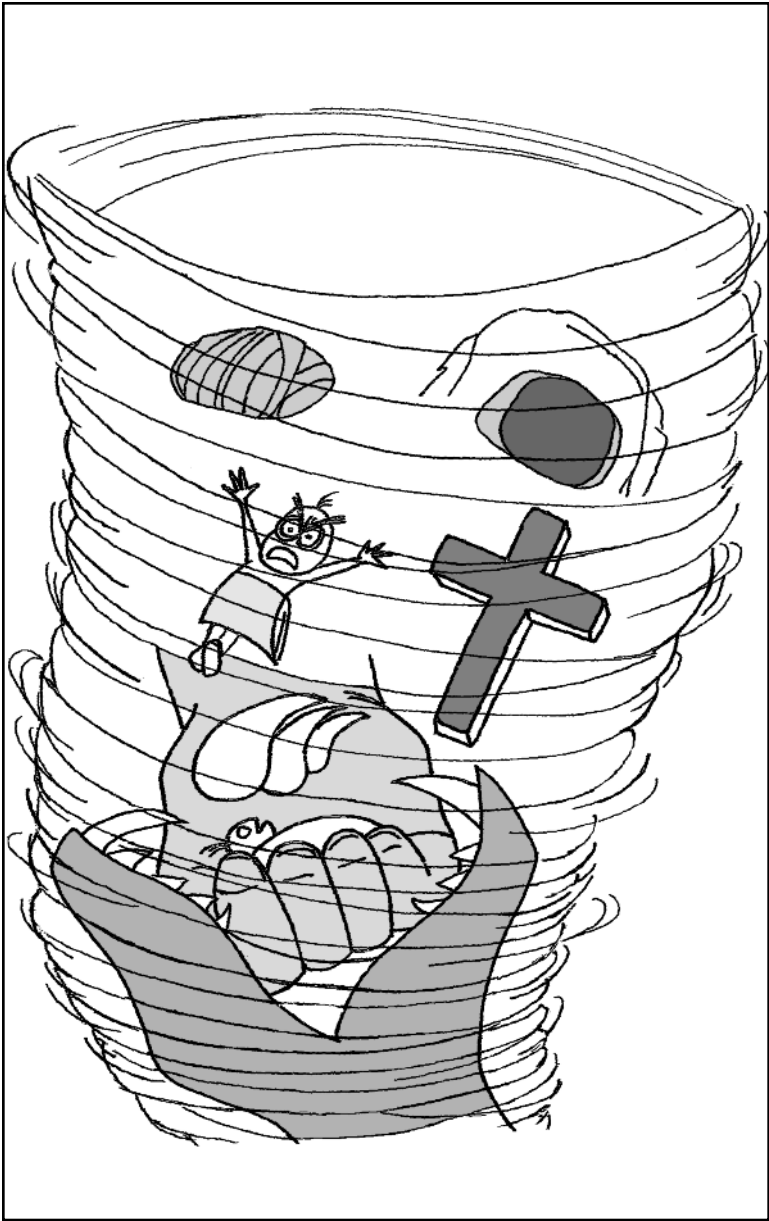
“Paul continues to show that baptism ends the power of sin. Sin cannot take us to hell any longer,” Pedro declared.

“Paul reminds us that Jesus was buried after he died for the sins of the world. The grave ended the power of sin. It ended the pain he suffered for our sin. Baptism joins us with his burial so that we can say, ‘We are free!’”

Pedro again drew the small child. Now he wrapped it in burial cloths. The child was floating towards Jesus’ own tomb ! He explained with joy, “In baptism, I join Jesus in his grave. Now there can be no mistake that the power of sin is ended. It is over. God is sending a clear message to the devil and to us. The child’s sins are forgiven. The child’s guilt is gone. It is free! Its connection with the devil is completely removed!

“Remember Paul’s words: ‘*By being baptized*, we were buried with Christ into his death.’ Here, God is promising that baptism saves by joining a person with Jesus. As soon as a child receives baptism, the power of sin to condemn the child is dead and buried.”

Pedro smiled. “Now comes the final mighty event in the surprising story of every baptized child.” Pedro quickly



*Child in a tomb, alongside a picture of Christ's tomb.*

### **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

added more lines to his drawing and then handed it to Corina.

### **Things to Remember:**

7. In baptism, a person also \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus in his grave.
8. Sin's power to \_\_\_\_\_ a baptized person is dead and buried.

(Check your answers on page 54)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2, Lesson 6,d:**

Raised to a glorious new life

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Pedro read aloud the words of Paul: "...Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life."

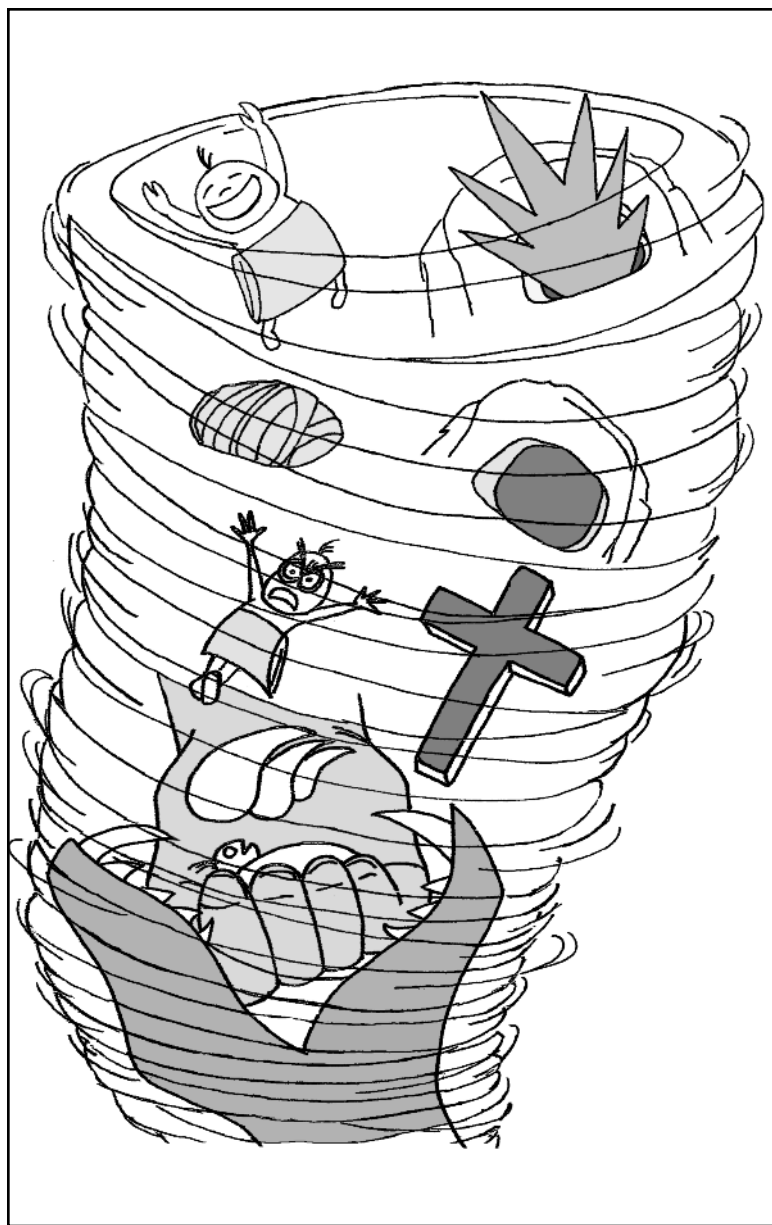
Ron and Corina did not know what to say. They kept looking at the surprising picture. The child in the drawing had risen from the dead! First, the baby was dead deep in the belly of the beast. Then it came alive and burst free!

Pedro explained: "The same power of God that raised Jesus from the dead works in baptism also. It takes a baby who was dead before God and joins it with Jesus. God brings the baby to the cross and grave of Jesus where he paid for all sin. Then, God raises that baby to spiritual life! We often call this power of God to raise the dead 'resurrection power.' *God's resurrection power is at work in baptism. It changes a child from being dead before God and gives it new life! It becomes a child of God.*"

"This baptized child is no longer a prisoner of the devil!" Pedro said with great joy, "The child is set free from the kingdom of Satan. It enters the kingdom of God. Jesus holds the child as his very own."

"All of that happens by baptizing a baby?" Ron asked once more. Surprise filled his voice.

"Study the drawing!" Pedro urged. "Look at all that happens to a child through baptism. God has promised us



*Child bursting forth to a glorious new life.*



these things in his Word: Sin's power to harm the child dies with Christ on the cross. The child joins Christ in the grave. Finally, the child joins in Christ's resurrection!"

"The devil cannot hold my baby?" Corina asked, wanting to be sure.

"The devil can no longer prove that your baby is his," Pedro joyously replied. "Through baptism your baby receives forgiveness for all his or her sins. Baptism washes away the sin your baby received from Adam and Eve. It is on the cross with Jesus."

"But... children are still sinners. They still sin a lot don't they?" Ron asked. Concern again showed on his face.

"That is a very good question," Pedro replied. "As long as we live here on earth, sin clings to us. But sin no longer rules in our hearts! It no longer controls us. It is no longer who we are! Think of what God does for a child in baptism. He casts the devil out of the child's heart. Then he makes that child into a 'new person.' He gives it faith in Jesus. It is now a child of God. Even though we Christians still sin, *we now belong to Jesus*. He graciously forgives all our sins. Recall God's glorious words: 'All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into his death? By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can *live a new life*.'" (Romans 6:3-4).

Pedro briefly repeated his thoughts: "First, God gives a child freedom from the kingdom of Satan through baptism. Then the child lives a new life in the kingdom of God. The

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

Holy Spirit creates faith in the baby's heart. And as a result, the baby does not need to fear anything in this world."

"Does not need to fear anything in this world?" Corina asked, totally surprised yet again.

"That is right, because the Holy Spirit now is living in the child!" Pedro replied. "Let me explain it all to you!"

### **Things to Remember:**

9. Resurrection power is God's power to \_\_\_\_\_ the dead.
10. When a baby that is dead before God receives baptism, God gives it new:
  - a. parents
  - b. life with God
  - c. physical health
11. The baptized child \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' resurrection.
12. A baptized child still is a \_\_\_\_\_, but it also is a new person.
13. The Holy Spirit gives the baby:
  - a. Bible knowledge
  - b. faith in Jesus
14. A baptized baby belongs to \_\_\_\_\_, who forgives all its sins.

(Check your answers on page 54)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2, Lesson 7:**

The presence of the Holy Spirit in baptized children

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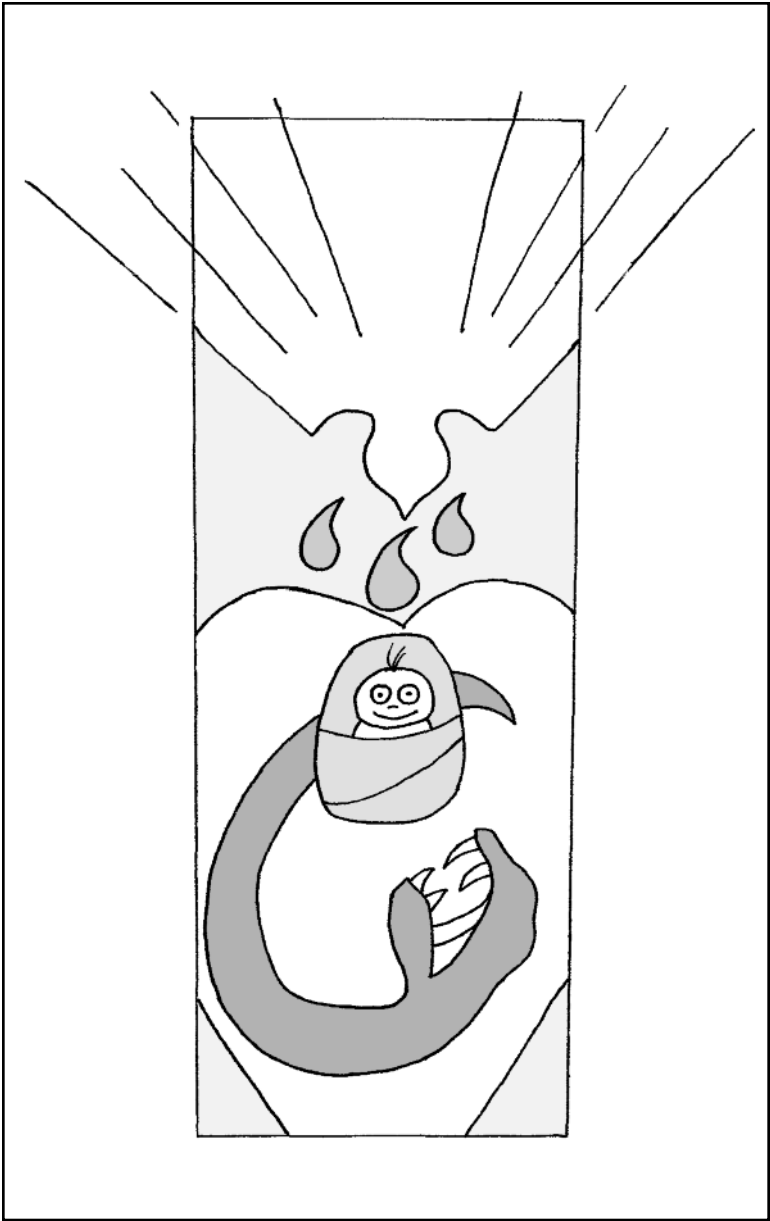
Ron and Corina's faces showed both excitement and wonder. Pedro had just mentioned another surprising detail. Through baptism, the Holy Spirit lives in the child! "Does the Holy Spirit actually live inside a baptized baby?" Corina asked.

"Hear the Word of God," Pedro replied. "This is what God said through the apostle Peter, 'All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children' (Acts 2:38-39)."

"Did you hear Peter say that the wonderful promises connected with baptism are for children too?" Pastor Pedro began. "We have already learned from Paul that baptism takes a baby's sin to the cross. Baptism buries the baby with Christ. Then, the power of God brings new life to the baby. Here Peter says that baptism gives even more. 'You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' What does this mean?"

"Through baptism, the Holy Spirit gives the child saving faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit actually begins to live in the child!"

"You are saying the Holy Spirit starts to live inside my child?" Corina asked again, finding it hard to believe.



*The Holy Spirit is present in baptism.*

Pedro smiled. He turned the pages in his Bible and began to read aloud the words of Paul: “Don’t you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is in you. You have received him from God” (1 Corinthians 6:19a).

Pedro explained this. “God is at work in baptism. In a way that we cannot explain, the Holy Spirit begins to live in the child. This helps the child in many ways. The Holy Spirit guards and protects the child. The Spirit will not allow the devil, to steal the baby’s soul. He will keep the child safe from the power of wizards and witchcraft. The Holy Spirit will strengthen the faith of the growing child. He will help the child understand the Word of God. These are the promised blessings the Spirit will give to the baptized child!”

“Through baptism the Holy Spirit actually lives in my child,” Corina repeated. “Who could imagine such a wonderful thing?”

“Yes! As soon as a child receives faith in Jesus through baptism, the entire Trinity begins to live in that child,” Pedro added. “Listen to Jesus’ own words about those who love him. Jesus is talking about all believers, including baptized babies. Jesus said, John 14:23, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him. We will come to him and make our home with him.’”

“The entire Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in my baby’s heart,” Corina whispered to herself. It was almost too wonderful to picture!

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

15. Peter said, “Be baptized... your sins will be \_\_\_\_\_ . You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
16. The Holy Spirit begins to live in a baptized baby, giving it faith in \_\_\_\_\_ , driving away the \_\_\_\_\_ , and protecting its soul.
17. God the \_\_\_\_\_ and God the \_\_\_\_\_ also make the baptized baby their home.

(Check your answers on page 54)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2, Lesson 8:**

The promises of the Father to his baptized children

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“It’s hard to believe that a child receives so many blessings through baptism,” Corina exclaimed. “It’s just so much!”

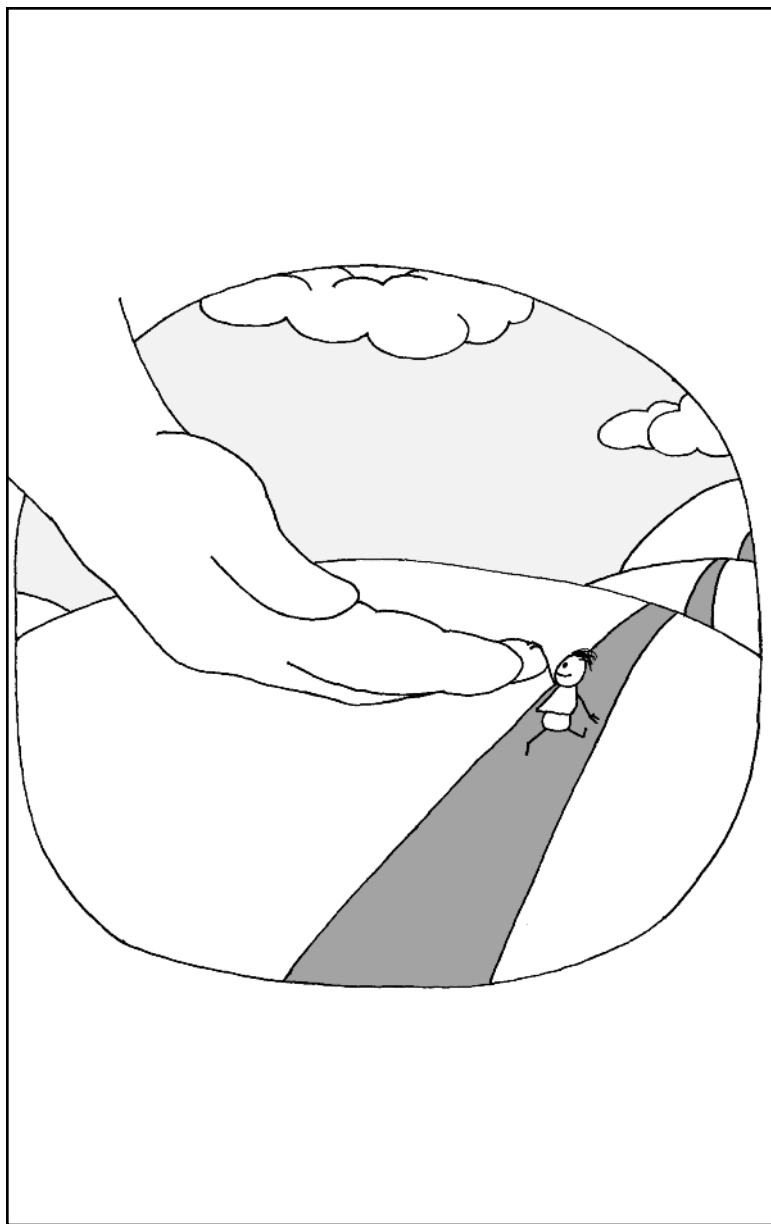
“Through baptism God showers the child with blessings,” Pedro replied. “One famous teacher, Martin Luther, summed up the blessings of baptism this way: ‘Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.’”

“You really believe baptizing a child can do all that?” Ron said. He was unable to stop himself.

Pedro smiled. “It would be hard to believe so many blessings come from baptism. Yet, God himself says it is true. Let’s listen to him. Several wonderful Bible verses describe the blessings of baptism. Martin Luther brings them to our attention.

1. In baptism, God offers and gives forgiveness of sins.
  - A. Acts 2:38. All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven.
  - B. Acts 22:16. Be baptized. Have your sins washed away.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



*The promises of the Father to his baptized children.*



2. In baptism, God offers and gives deliverance from the power of death and the devil.
  - A. Mark 16:16. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved.
  - B. Galatians 3:27. All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes.
3. In baptism, God offers and gives eternal life in heaven.
  - A. Titus 3: 5-7. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. God poured out the Spirit on us freely because of what Jesus Christ our Savior has done. His grace made us right with God. So now, we have received the hope of eternal life as God's children.

“We cannot argue with these clear words of God,” Corina quickly added. “There are so many blessings. Why would anyone say ‘No’ to baptism for their baby?” Ron nodded because he agreed with Corina.

Pastor Pedro was very pleased with the words of Corina and Ron. “Let me say this,” he continued, as the excitement in his voice rose even more. “I believe God is excited about the blessings in baptism too. He even gave us “pictures” of the blessings of baptism in the Old Testament of our Bibles! I’d love to share some of these pictures of baptism with you.”

“Please do!” Corina and Ron joyfully replied together.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

18. One blessing of baptism is the \_\_\_\_\_  
of sins.
19. Another blessing of baptism is freedom from the power  
of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
20. And another blessing is the gift of eternal \_\_\_\_\_  
in heaven.

(Check your answers on page 54)

## **REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 2**

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How does baptism bless a baby? Baptism takes the power of sin away from the baby. Baptism nails sin to the cross with Jesus and buries it with Jesus. Sin no longer has power to harm the child. Baptism gives a baby forgiveness for its sins. God gives it new life in his family. The Holy Spirit enters the baby and creates faith in Jesus in its heart. God the Father and God the Son make their home with the child too. Sin still is in the baby, but now it is a new person. It is a forgiven child of God. It has eternal life in heaven in the future. The devil no longer can say the child belongs to him.

#### **Things to remember-Answers-Part 2**

1. sinners, dead, devil; 2. Baptism; 3. joins; 4. sin; 5. power; 6. devil; 7. joins; 8. condemn; 9. raise; 10. life with God; 11. joins; 12. sinners; 13. faith in Jesus; 14. Jesus; 15. forgiven; 16. Jesus, devil; 17. Father, Holy Spirit; 18. forgiveness; 19. death, devil; 20. life.

**TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 2**

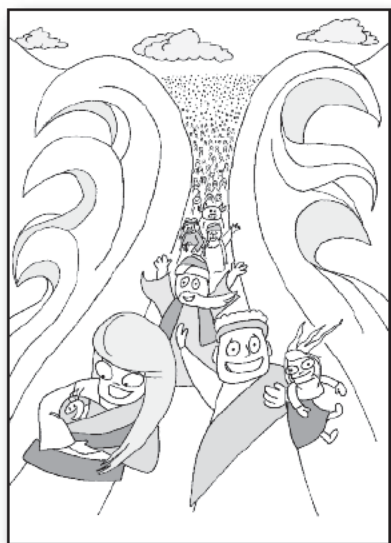
*Please review “Things to remember.”*

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1. In baptism, the power of \_\_\_\_\_ is nailed to the cross with Jesus.
2. Sin’s power to \_\_\_\_\_ a baptized person is dead and buried.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ no longer has a baptized person in his control.
4. God’s power in baptism gives a baby new \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
5. A baptized child still is sinful, but it also is a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Peter said, “Be baptized... your sins will be \_\_\_\_\_. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ begins to live in a baptized baby, giving it faith in Jesus, driving away the devil, and protecting its soul.
8. God the \_\_\_\_\_ and God the \_\_\_\_\_ also make the baptized baby their home.

9. The blessings of baptism include the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins, freedom from the power of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the gift of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.

(Check your answers on page 178)



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 3:**  
**Infant baptism pictured in the Old Testament**

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 3, Lesson 9:**

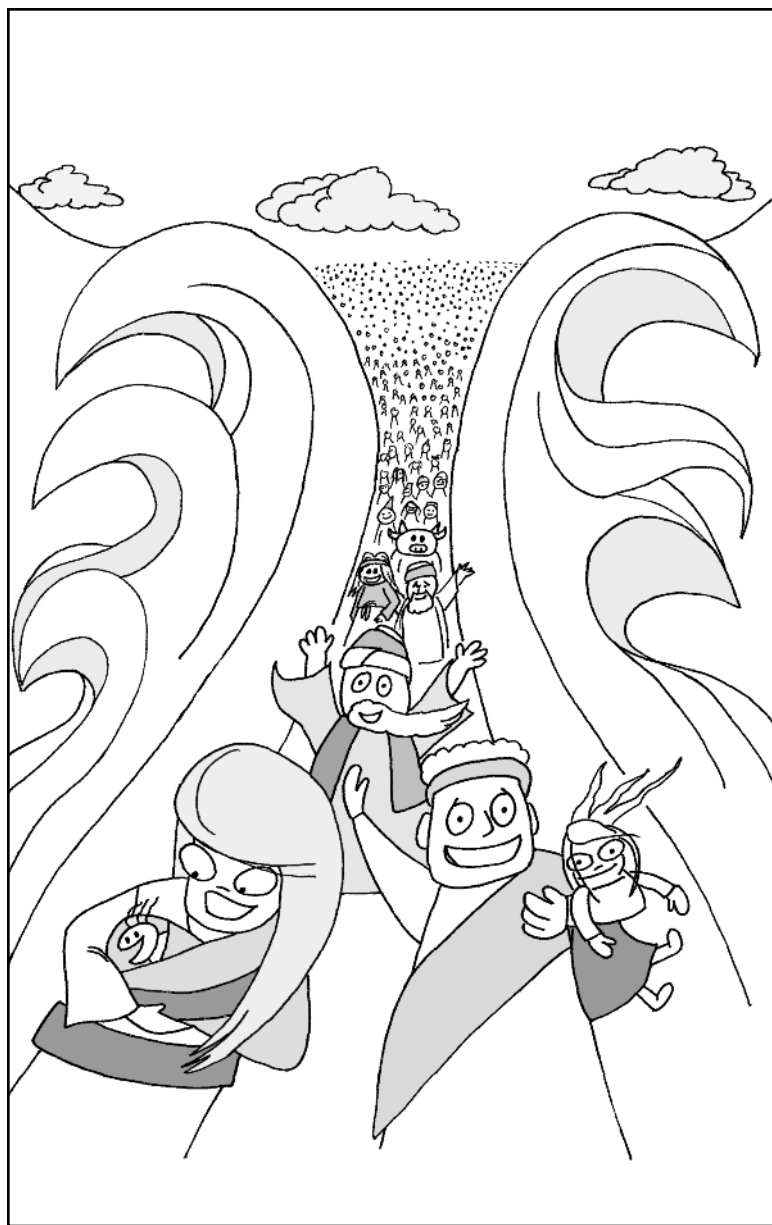
#### **The crossing of the Red Sea**

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“Do you remember the story of Moses and the Children of Israel?” Pastor Pedro began. “Let’s look at how God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. God sent ten plagues against the evil Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the man who ruled the country of Egypt. The last plague killed the oldest son in every Egyptian family. God’s Word tells us, ‘At midnight the LORD struck down every oldest son in Egypt. He killed the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne. He killed all of the oldest sons of prisoners, who were in prison’ (Exodus 12:29). The Pharaoh was afraid. He ordered Moses and the Israelites to leave Egypt immediately.

“That night God began to lead Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt and on their way to the Promised Land. Meanwhile, Pharaoh went from feeling afraid to feeling very angry. He had just lost all his slaves! Pharaoh changed his mind. He decided to chase down the Israelites and kill them all.

“The Israelites traveled southeast for several days. They left Egypt. However, then they came to the Red Sea. The sea was over 1,250 miles long. Possibly, it was 10 miles wide at the place where the Israelites stopped. (No one knows the exact spot.) Meanwhile, Pharaoh and his mighty army were racing to catch the Israelites! The sea was too long and wide for the Israelites to go any farther. The fleeing nation of Israel felt trapped between the sea and the army!



*The crossing of the Red Sea.*



“Imagine that you are one of those Israelites. You are standing there with your mother and father, brothers and sisters. Your relatives, friends, and neighbors are nearby. You see a huge, rolling black cloud of dust in the distance. Is that the sound of horses? More than six hundred chariots of the powerful Egyptian army are moving toward you. Pharaoh and his mighty soldiers hope to kill every last Israelite! Every man, woman, child, and baby is in danger. What could anyone do?”

“With a wind, God made a wide opening through the waters of the Red Sea. All the Israelites passed through it unharmed!” Ron replied.

“Thank you, Ron,” Pedro replied. He was slightly upset that Ron got to tell the exciting end to the story. Yet, he was pleased at Ron’s excitement. “That is exactly what happened. God’s power opened the waters of the Red Sea. He saved every one of his people.

“But now listen carefully,” Pedro went on. “Hundreds of years later, Paul wrote that God’s powerful rescue of the Israelites at the Red Sea is a *picture* of baptism today! God caused Paul to write this to the church in Corinth. ‘Brothers and sisters, here is what I want you to know about our people who lived long ago. They were all led by the cloud. They all walked through the Red Sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea’ (1 Corinthians 10:1-2).

“The entire story of Moses and the Israelites against Pharaoh and the Egyptians has great meaning for us,” Pedro said. “Moses and Israel followed God. God led them by using a huge cloud to show them where to go. Today, we

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

too follow God. He is present with us, but not in a cloud. He leads us with his Word, the Bible. The Bible sometimes uses Moses as a picture of Jesus. Moses led the captive *Israelites* to freedom. Jesus leads *us* to freedom. And Pharaoh makes us think of Satan. The angry Pharaoh followed the Israelites and tried to destroy them. Likewise, Satan is very angry as he follows us. He tries to destroy our faith so we end up in hell.

“Now here is a surprising point. Paul compares the crossing of the Red Sea to baptism. He wants us to take another look at the Israelites who followed Moses, walked through the Red Sea, and escaped death from the Pharaoh. He says that they are a picture of what happens in baptism today! Children today follow Jesus and go through the waters of baptism. They escape the devil and eternal death!

“Now this is important. Notice that *all* the people of Israel were baptized in the sea! Paul uses the word “all” three times to tell us that every Israelite was baptized in the sea. Not only the adults, but also the children and babies escaped through this baptism.”

“What an exciting way to picture the power of baptism!” Corina said with surprise. “Just like Pharaoh, Satan can only watch as our children slip from his hands through the waters of baptism.”

“And they follow Jesus all the way to the Promised Land!” Ron added, his voice filled with wonder and excitement.

**Things to Remember:**

1. The Old Testament of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ the power of baptism.
2. God used \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to save the children of Israel from death.
3. Today, God saves both children and adults through:
  - a. Moses and the Red Sea
  - b. Jesus and baptism
  - c. Pastors and preaching

(Check your answers on page 74)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 3, Lesson 10:**

Moses sprinkles the Israelites with blood

---

“There are several pictures of baptism in the Old Testament,” Pedro explained. “God commanded Israel to do certain things that help us understand what baptism is.

“Tell me this,” Pedro continued. “What is the biggest difference between life during Old Testament times and life during New Testament times?”

“In Old Testament times the people were waiting for Jesus to come,” Corina answered. “In New Testament times and today, we live after Jesus came and died for us on the cross.”

“Very good Corina,” Pedro smiled. “One example of this difference is the way God offered forgiveness of sins and eternal life to Israel in Old Testament times. God used the blood of animals. The animals died as sacrifices. In this way, God pointed to Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus would be the final and real sacrifice for sin. Once again, why does God forgive our sins?”

“Jesus lived a perfect life in our place, and then poured out his blood on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins,” Ron said.

“Exactly right, Ron,” Pedro replied. “God tells us in Hebrews 9:22 that ‘without the spilling of blood, no one can be forgiven.’ We know it took the blood of God’s own Son to pay for the sins of the whole world.

“In Exodus 24, we find all the children of Israel gathered together. Moses commanded young men to bring animals, including young bulls, and sacrifice them to God. This means that they killed the animals, collected their blood, and then gave the animals to God. These animal sacrifices were pictures of the coming final sacrifice Jesus’ death on the cross.

“Moses collected the blood of the sacrificed animals into bowls. He then read to the children of Israel the Book of the Covenant. This was the book of God’s laws. It told his people how to live. The people agreed to follow God’s commands.

“Then, God told Moses to do something wonderful. He told Moses to take the blood in the bowls, the blood from the sacrificed animals, and sprinkle the blood on the people!

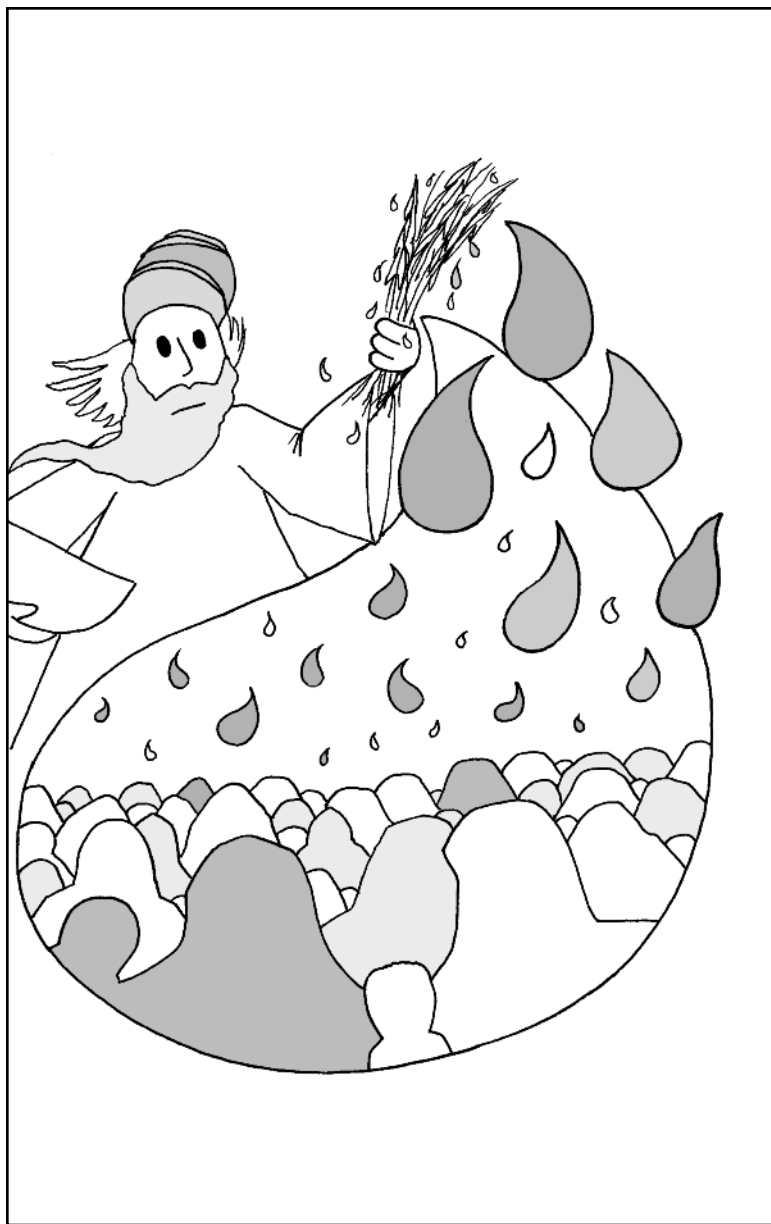
“Now I ask you,” Pedro said excitedly, “What does sprinkling the people with blood for the forgiveness of sins remind you of?”

“In baptism water is sprinkled on people and they receive forgiveness of sins!” Ron replied.

“Excellent, Ron!” Pedro exclaimed. He turned to his pad of paper and wrote:

Some Old Testament sacrifices that included sprinkling with blood point to:

1. The sacrifice of Jesus the power in baptism to forgive.
2. The New Testament act of baptism.



*Moses sprinkles the Israelites with blood.*

Pedro set his pencil down. “Here is an important question for you: Who was present when Moses sprinkled blood on the people?”

“Everyone was there!” Corina recalled, to her own surprise. “Babies and children along with adults, all of them would have been sprinkled with blood!”

Pedro smiled in agreement. “Babies and children also needed to have their sins forgiven and to be right with God. This Old Testament picture of baptism reminds us to baptize children.

“Listen carefully,” Pedro urged Corina and Ron.

“The babies and little children of Israel did not understand anything that Moses read from the Book of the Covenant.

“The babies and children did not understand the sprinkling of blood. They did not know that it was a picture of God’s promise to save them through the blood of his Son Jesus.

“Even so the babies and children were sprinkled!

“Little children need forgiveness. They receive forgiveness in baptism. God has always provided a way to forgive children of their sins and save them!”

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

4. “Without the spilling of \_\_\_\_\_, no one can be \_\_\_\_\_.”
5. God forgives all sin because his Son, Jesus, gave his holy \_\_\_\_\_ as a sacrifice.
6. The blood of \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices pictured the blood of Jesus that pays for sin.
7. Moses sprinkled the blood of a sacrifice on both adults and children to give them:
  - a. Fear
  - b. Sadness
  - c. Forgiveness
8. The blood of Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ its power to forgive sin.
9. We sprinkle the water of \_\_\_\_\_ on adults and children to provide \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 74)



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 3, Lesson 11:**

Baptism as the circumcision Christ provides

---

Pastor Pedro continued his lively talk with Corina and Ron. “We have seen that baptism brings us many blessings from God. It gives us forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and promises eternal life.

“Let me take you back once more to Old Testament times. That is when God set up the practice called circumcision. He began by giving it to Abraham. Abraham was an adult at that time. Circumcision means to remove the foreskin, the skin that folds over the male sexual organ. Centuries later Paul wrote:

‘[Abraham] was circumcised as a sign of the covenant God had made with him. It showed that his faith had made him right with God before he was circumcised’ (Romans 4:11).

“A student of the Bible wrote that God wanted circumcision to be a seal (or proof) of his love for the circumcised believer. It showed that the covenant of God’s grace and all its blessings were his to enjoy.”\*

“So Abraham was already an adult and already had faith when he was circumcised,” Ron pointed out.

“That is correct,” Pedro replied. “But there is more to the story. It is true that God gave Abraham the gift of circumcision when he was an adult. However, *from that day on, God wanted baby boys to be circumcised eight days after their birth!*”\*



*A mother brings her child to the priest to be circumcised.*

“We should note one more thing,” Pedro added. “If the male head of the house was circumcised, all the female members of the household also were included in the covenant with God. That is the way God set it up.”

“God wanted male babies only eight days old to be circumcised?” Corina asked.

“Male babies eight days old were circumcised. This was a proof or a seal that they were God’s children,” Pedro repeated.

“So what does circumcision have to do with our talk about infant baptism?” Ron asked in a polite voice.

“The topic of circumcision is not simple,” Pedro replied. “We don’t have time to discuss it in detail. But here is the reason I brought it up. In New Testament times Paul describes baptism as a circumcision that Christ did to you (Colossians 2:11-13)! Now I ask you, what picture would come to people’s minds when they heard Paul say the word ‘circumcision’?”

“The picture of an eight-day-old male baby having his foreskin removed?” Ron offered.

“Yes!” Pedro agreed. “Paul is showing that baptism is for children as well as for adults.”

“In other words,” Corina suddenly realized, “When people heard Paul call baptism the circumcision that Christ did to you, they thought of families. They pictured babies, as well as adults, receiving baptism! Paul is saying that baptism is meant for children too!”



*A mother brings her child to the pastor to be baptized.*

Pedro smiled, “This verse is yet another proof that baptism is for children!”

Corina and Ron sat silent for a moment. All the Old Testament teachings they had heard were sinking in. Meanwhile, an idea suddenly occurred to Pedro.

“Right now there are two other couples in our church, Jenette and Luc, and Betty and Max. I think you know them. They will also have babies soon. The teaching about infant baptism is also new to them. I think I will invite all of you to a special series of Wednesday night Bible classes on infant baptism. Would you come?”

“Certainly we would come,” Ron immediately replied. Corina smiled in agreement. The Old Testament pictures of baptism were making Ron and Corina more sure than ever that baptism is for children. They also loved hearing about the many blessings that God would shower on their baby through baptism!

### **Things to Remember:**

10. God made Abraham sure of his salvation through \_\_\_\_\_ as proof that he was saved.
11. In Old Testament times, boys received circumcision eight days after:
  - a. their 12th birthday
  - b. their 18th birthday
  - c. their birth
12. The Bible calls \_\_\_\_\_ “a circumcision that Christ did to you.”

### **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

13. God wants us to give baptism to \_\_\_\_\_  
as well as to adults.

(Check your answers on page 74)

## **REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 3**

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The Old Testament of the Bible pictures the power of baptism. One picture is the way God saved the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt through Moses and the Red Sea. Similarly, through the power of Jesus in Baptism, he saves adults and children today from sin, death, and hell. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals pictured the blood of Jesus. That is why animal blood sprinkled on people gave forgiveness at the time of Moses. In the same way, the blood of Jesus forgives sin when we sprinkle the water of baptism on people of all ages today. The Old Testament also teaches us about circumcision. This act gave the promise of salvation even to infants. Likewise, baptism gives forgiveness and eternal life, even to infants.

#### **Things to remember-Answers-Part 3**

1. pictures; 2. Moses, the Red Sea; 3. Jesus and baptism; 4. blood, forgiven;
5. blood; 6. animal; 7. forgiveness; 8. baptism; 9. baptism, forgiveness;
10. circumcision; 11. their birth; 12. baptism; 13. children.

**TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 3**

*Please review "Things to remember."*

---

1. The Old Testament of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ the power of baptism.
2. God used \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to save the children of Israel from death.
3. Today, God saves both children and adults through Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. "Without the spilling of \_\_\_\_\_, no one can be \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Because God's Son, Jesus, gave his holy \_\_\_\_\_ as a sacrifice, God forgives the sin of all people.
6. The blood of \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices pictured the blood of Jesus that pays for sin.
7. Moses sprinkled the blood of a sacrifice on both adults and children to give them \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The blood of Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ its power to forgive sin.
9. We sprinkle the water of \_\_\_\_\_ on adults and children to provide \_\_\_\_\_.
10. God made Abraham sure of his salvation through the act of \_\_\_\_\_.



11. In Old Testament times, boys received circumcision eight days after their \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The Bible calls \_\_\_\_\_ “a circumcision that Christ did to you.”
13. God wants us to give baptism to \_\_\_\_\_ as well as to adults.

(Check your answers on page 178)



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 4:**  
**Infant baptism in the New Testament**

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 4, Lesson 12:**

The command to baptize all nations

---

Corina and Ron arrived late when Pastor Pedro held the first Wednesday night class on infant baptism. The other two couples, Betty and Max, and Jenette and Luc, were already there. Max was talking with Pastor Pedro.

“Max doesn’t believe babies should be baptized,” Betty whispered to Corina and Ron as they sat down. “He just asked Pastor to prove it from the Bible.”

Pedro excused himself from Max for a moment to greet Corina and Ron. “I’m glad we’re all here,” Pedro smiled. “Let’s begin our class with prayer.”

After the prayer, Pedro smiled and announced, “I would like to begin with a story.” Everyone liked that idea. So Pedro began.

“There was once a college professor who lived in Haiti for several months. He went there to study and write notes about life in small Haitian towns. The people loved the professor. He had so much interest and respect for their way of life. At the end of his three-month stay, the professor told the people that he was leaving. He would return to his country to write a book entitled the *Nation of Haiti*. The professor asked the people to all gather in one central town on his final day in Haiti. He wanted a photo of all the people. The photo of the large group of people would be used for the cover of the book! The people excitedly agreed.



*A professor visits with the villagers.*

“The day for the picture arrived. The people got up early, and they went down to the river to bathe. Adults and children put on their best clothes for the cover photo. At the chosen hour, everyone gathered on the common grounds of the central town. The well-loved professor set up his camera. He waited as the people gathered in front of him for the great group photo.

“All the people were very excited as they eagerly gathered together. With huge smiles on their faces, they were ready for the photo. But then, without any warning, the professor stepped away from his camera. He said, ‘I do not want any children in the cover photo. Parents, please take your children off to the side.’

“The people were shocked. They couldn’t believe their ears. Immediately, they asked, ‘Why do you not want our children in the cover photo? Isn’t your book called, *Nation of Haiti?*’ ‘The children are here. They are all ready. We are all ready!’

“The professor did not reply. An elder and leader of the town quickly stepped forward. ‘How could you not include the children?’ he asked. ‘Why would they not be included in the photo for your book, *Nation of Haiti?*’

“But the professor would not let the children be a part of the photo. Seeing that, the elders immediately called a meeting. Within moments they came to a decision. They told the professor, ‘We want the children to be with us. Otherwise, we will not be in a photo for your book *Nation of Haiti*. Our children are a part of the nation.’ And with that, all the nicely washed and well-dressed people walked away. The adults, the children, and the babies, sadly returned to their homes.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

That was the end of Pedro's story. Now Pedro asked if anyone in the group wanted to say something. The three couples jumped at the opportunity. Everyone was talking at once. Max got everyone's attention by talking the loudest. "The decision of the professor to separate the children was a bad mistake," he began. "It was wrong and very hurtful. It cannot be defended. I don't know what he was thinking. He had no right to keep any child from being in the photo." The five other adults had the same feeling. Everyone agreed. The professor had no right to say that children did not belong in the photo. It was for a book entitled *Nation of Haiti*.

Pastor Pedro raised his hand to speak. "Everyone please open your Bibles to Matthew 28:19. After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave his final instruction to his disciples before he would return to heaven."

Pedro asked the three couples to read the verse out loud together. "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The word "nations" seemed to leap off the page at everyone. Max immediately stated what was clear to everyone. "Jesus commanded them to baptize 'nations.' That includes everyone: adults, children, and babies!"

Pedro smiled and explained, "Throughout the Bible, including many times in the Old Testament, the word 'nation' is used to describe a large group of people. It always means everyone. The word 'nation' always includes the children."

The three couples clearly understood. There could be no doubt about it. When Jesus commanded us to baptize all nations, he included the children!

**Things to Remember:**

1. Jesus has said that we must "...Go and make disciples of all \_\_\_\_\_. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
2. When the Bible uses the word "nation" to describe a group of people, it means:
  - a. Only adults
  - b. Only children
  - c. Everyone
3. Jesus wants us to baptize \_\_\_\_\_ as well as adults.

(Check your answers on page 103)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 4, Lesson 13:**

The baptizing of entire households

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“I have a few drawings of some families. I would like to show them to you before we get started.” Pastor Pedro announced this at the following Wednesday night class.

“That would be great,” Ron replied for the three couples. Pedro was an excellent artist. Everyone was eager to see his work. Pedro pulled out the first drawing.

“This is a drawing of the household of a man named Cornelius. He is a friend of mine,” Pedro said. The drawing showed Cornelius, his wife, her sister, and an uncle. Everyone liked the picture. Pedro pulled out a second drawing. “Here is the family of my friend who works as a guard at a prison.” In the photo were the prison guard, his wife, and a grandmother.

“No children?” Jenette asked. Pedro ignored the question.

“Here is the drawing of the household of a man named Crispus,” Pedro went on. There was Crispus, his wife, his sister, and his wife’s grandfather.

“They don’t have children either?” Luc wondered. Pedro still did not answer this.

“And here is the drawing of the family of a man named Stephanas,” Pedro continued. There was only Stephanas, his wife, and a cat in the picture.



“There aren’t any children in your drawings.” Max was puzzled. Not a single family has a child? Or maybe you don’t like to draw children?” Pedro just smiled.

“Here is a drawing of the family of a lady named Lydia,” he said. Lydia was standing next to two men. Yet again, there was not a child to be found. “So, what do you think of the five family drawings?” Pedro cheerily asked.

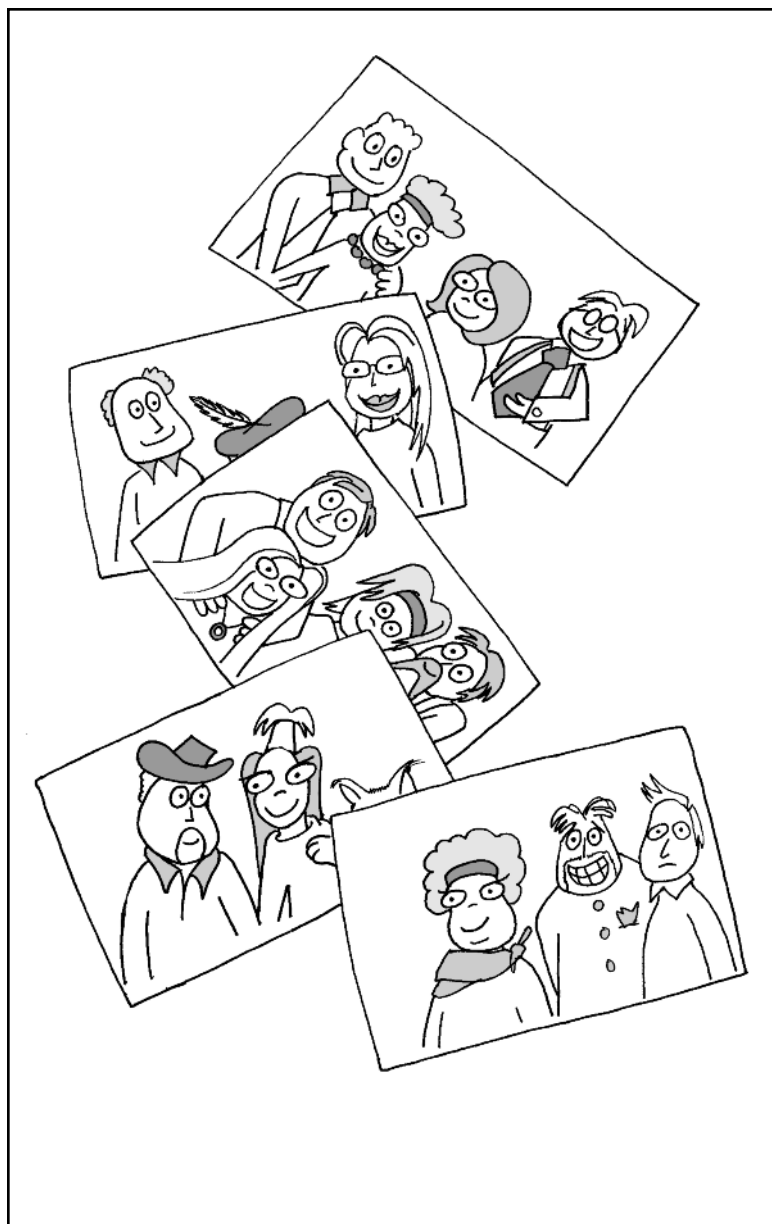
“There aren’t any children!” Everyone said this.

“I cannot believe you drew five families but did not include a single child.” Betty sniffed. “Really Pastor, five families and not one of them has any children? You missed some family members I think.”

“Let’s open our Bibles to Acts 10. This is the story of one believer’s family,” Pedro replied. He was still smiling in spite of Betty’s sharp comment. Everyone looked at each other. They were shaking their heads as they reached for their Bibles. Pedro still offered no explanation for drawing five families without a single child.

Soon, all of them began to hear Bible stories about baptisms. The stories described the baptisms of entire households! Pedro read the accounts, adding comments along the way.

1. “In Acts 10:2, 24, 48, we read, ‘[Cornelius] and all his family were faithful and worshiped God... Cornelius... had called together his relatives and close friends.’ Peter, after his sermon, ‘ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.’”



*Entire households are to be baptized.*

Luc broke in, “When Cornelius called together his relatives and close friends, he also gathered his own family, right?” Pedro nodded yes. Luc continued, “Well, if all of his family, relatives, and friends gathered, there would have been some children! So, we could say that children were present and baptized at the family gathering!” Everyone agreed with Luc’s conclusion.

Pedro went on:

2. “In Acts 16:14 15, Paul and his companions were sharing the gospel down by a river outside Philippi. Luke writes, ‘One of those listening was a woman named Lydia. She was from the city of Thyatira. Her business was selling purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to accept Paul’s message. She and her family were baptized. Then she invited us to her home.’”

“She and her family were baptized.” Jenette repeated the phrase. A picture of adults and children being baptized filled her head. The other couples were thinking the same.

Pedro continued:

3. “In Acts 16:16 40, we have the story of Paul and Silas in Philippi. One day, while in town to tell others about Jesus, the two missionaries were ‘stripped and beaten.’ They were ‘whipped without mercy’ and ‘thrown into prison’ because of evil men who stirred up the people against them.

“During that night while they were in prison, God caused an earthquake! The prison doors flew open and ‘everybody’s chains came loose.’ Rather than escape from prison, Paul and Silas stayed to share the gospel with the jailer! The jailer believed, and he invited Paul and Silas to

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

his house. There they ‘spoke the word of the Lord’ to everyone. Luke writes, ‘At that hour of the night the jailer took [Paul and Silas] and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.’”

“‘He and all his family’! They would have baptized the children in the family too!” Ron was very excited.

“Of course,” Betty replied. “Look, if we weren’t supposed to baptize children, Luke would have said so by now. Think of all his stories in Acts about whole households or families being baptized. Luke knew his readers, like us, would believe that some of these families had children!”

“Excellent point, Betty,” Pedro replied. “Allow me to continue. Luke also writes about Paul doing mission work in the city of Corinth.

4. “In Acts 18:8, Luke writes, ‘Crispus was the synagogue ruler. He and his whole family came to believe in the Lord. Many others who lived in Corinth heard Paul. They too believed and were baptized.’”

“Crispus and his whole family along with other Corinthians were baptized,” Max said. “Sounds like more children to me. The list of households being baptized just goes on and on.”

“One final, quick example,” Pedro announced, “from the book of 1 Corinthians.

5. “In 1 Corinthians 1:16, Paul writes, ‘It’s true that I also baptized those who live in the house of Stephanas.’”

Pedro closed his Bible. “Understand clearly,” he said to the couples. “During New Testament times the word

‘household’ included more than it does today. A household was not only the main family, but also the families of any servants and slaves. They all lived at the master’s large houses. There would have been entire families of servants and slaves in some of the households we just mentioned. The children of these servants and slaves also would have been baptized.”

“Five examples in the Bible of entire households being baptized.” Corina thought about that. “There must have been children. It is impossible to imagine so many families the main families, families of the servants, families of the slaves all these families without a single child among them!”

“Wait! That’s exactly like our Pastor’s five drawings of families at the beginning of class,” Luc suddenly saw. “We couldn’t believe that not a single family had a child! It’s the same thing here. Not a single child in five New Testament households? I can’t believe it.”

Corina wanted the last word. “It’s just as Betty pointed out. We read five Bible stories of whole households or families being baptized. Not once is there any age limit on who could be baptized. Adults heard the gospel message. They believed it and received baptism along with the children who were present. If there were any age limit, someone would have said so!” If baptism were not for children, Luke, Paul, or Peter would have told us.

Luc summed up what the three couples were feeling. “Five entire households were baptized. This is Bible-based proof that children are to be baptized!”

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

Pedro smiled. It was the perfect way to end the lesson. He nodded to Luc who offered a closing prayer. Luc thanked God for guiding the discussion and blessing the class. Pedro began gathering his materials. As he did this, he said, “We have been studying very hard the last couple of weeks. We will take it a bit easier next time. Next Wednesday I will take time to teach some exciting new worship songs. And I promise to bring refreshments for everyone. The promise is for you and your children.” After he said that, Pedro turned and immediately left.

The three couples looked at each other. “Are we supposed to bring our children next week?” Jenette asked.

“I think that’s what he said,” Luc replied. “First he said, ‘I will bring some new music, and I promise to bring some refreshments.’ Then he said, ‘this promise is for you and your children.’”

“I’m bringing my children,” Betty replied. “They could use a night out of the house. Plus they’ll really like the free refreshments.”

The two couples who had children agreed to bring them next week. And with that, the three couples headed off into the night to their homes.

**Things to Remember:**

4. Cornelius, his relatives, and close friends were \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Lydia and her \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized.
6. The jailer at Philippi and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized.
7. Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his whole family believed and were \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Paul baptized those who lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Stephanus.
9. Baptized families would have included \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 103)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 4, Lesson 14:**

Peter's Pentecost sermon

---

“Hey, what are all these children doing here?” Pedro asked. He pretended to be surprised as he saw the large group on the following Wednesday night. His arms were loaded with bags of snacks and bottles of juice.

Betty immediately became worried. “I thought you invited the children to come this week! You said, ‘I will bring some new music, and I promise to bring refreshments.’ I thought you wanted the children to come!”

“But why did you think I wanted the children to come?” Pedro asked.

“Because,” Max butted in, “you said ‘the promise is for you and your children!’”

“The children are very much welcome tonight!” Pedro laughed. “Betty, I was only teasing you.”

Betty did not smile at first. She and Max had brought five children with them! Pedro quickly said he was sorry. He added, “Before we get to the music and refreshments, let’s look at God’s Word. Everyone open your Bibles to Acts 2.”

After an opening prayer, Pedro began his lesson. “Here in Acts 2 we find the wonderful sermon of Peter on Pentecost. Peter was preaching to a crowd of unbelievers. There were adults, children, parents with their babies, older people. All age groups were present. In his sermon Peter carefully



explained who Jesus is. He is the Savior that God promised to send. He is the Son of God who died for their sins and rose again.

“By the power of the Holy Spirit, the listeners began to understand the message. They were lost sinners. They had done wrong. They had nailed Jesus to the cross. God would be right if he punished them. But the people also heard that Jesus had come to save them. So immediately they asked Peter and the other apostles who were present, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

“Peter replied, ‘All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ Peter meant that they would receive faith in Jesus and God would be with them.

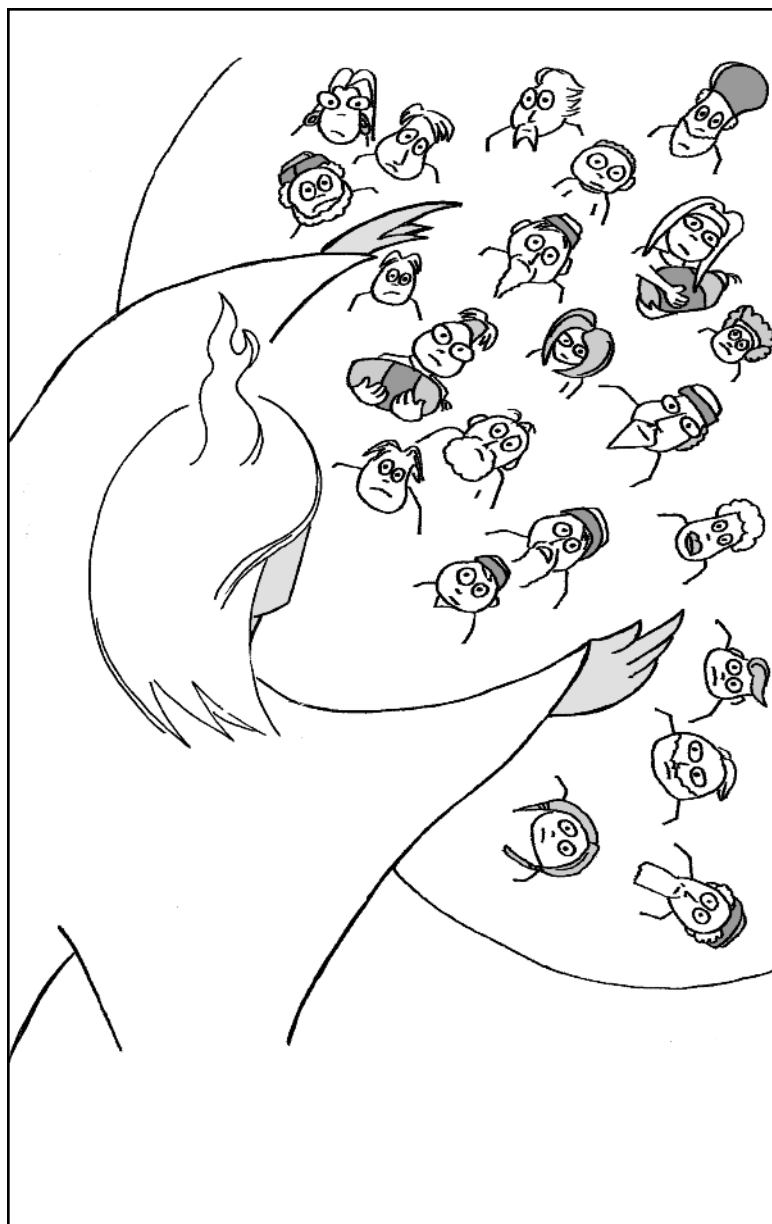
“Peter then said, ‘The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose.’”

Pastor Pedro looked at the three couples and said, “The Holy Spirit was working in the hearts of Peter’s listeners. His power led them to ask for help. What did Peter say they needed?”

“They needed to turn away from their sins and be baptized,” Ron replied.

“And what would happen?” Pastor Pedro continued.

“‘You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ As you said, this means that the Holy Spirit would give them saving faith,” Betty offered.



*Peter preaching at Pentecost.*

“And who is this promise for?” Pedro asked.

“The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose,” Luc eagerly answered.

“‘You and your children!’ Peter was talking about the adults in the crowd and their children!” Pedro was excited as he said this. “Pay attention to the word ‘your.’ Peter said, ‘your children.’ *He meant children who were still under the care of their parents. That would include children from youths to infants. This certainly included all the babies who were present!*”

“But wait a minute, Pastor,” Max interrupted. His face showed that he didn’t understand. Peter said, ‘turn away from your sins and be baptized.’ How can a baby or a child turn away from its sins?”

“Yes, that is what Peter said. ‘All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized,’” Pastor Pedro agreed. “The Holy Spirit does this work. He uses his mighty and mysterious power. The power of the Holy Spirit can change the heart of a child! He turns it away from sin. He gives it faith in Jesus. And at the same time he gives the child forgiveness and eternal life.”

“Think carefully,” Pedro continued. “The very same thing happened when children of the New Testament households were baptized. The Holy Spirit changed the children’s hearts. He turned them away from sin, gave them faith in Jesus, and eternal life in heaven with Jesus.”

Pedro went on. “A baby is not able to think or talk about these gifts. But it does not matter. God works in the hearts

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

of helpless babies. And he gives the same gifts to adults. It is the Holy Spirit who gives adults a change of heart, sorrow over their sin, and belief in God's forgiveness. In addition, the Holy Spirit gives adults the ability to understand God's holy plan for their lives and his promises to save them. That is why adults can talk about their change of heart and faith in Jesus."

"We will speak more on this topic in a future class," Pedro added. "But for now let us be clear. The apostle Peter wanted people to understand that baptism is for children too. Listen closely when he says, 'turn away from sin and be baptized' on that Pentecost day. 'The promise [of the gift of the Spirit, which is saving faith] is for you and your children.' Children also were baptized that wonderful day!"

"The promise is for you and your children," Max repeated. He was looking at all the little ones running around in the room. "You pulled one over on us, Pastor Pedro!"

"Yes I did," Pedro laughed. "When I said my promise of refreshments was for you and your children, you knew exactly what I meant. You all brought your children."

"You need not worry, Pastor. I clearly understand the apostle Peter's words," said Betty. She was smiling again. "We will bring all our children to be baptized!"

Pastor Pedro smiled hugely. "Our lesson is finished for tonight. Time for music and the refreshments promised to you and your children!"

**Things to Remember:**

10. Peter preached to a large crowd in Jerusalem about the death and resurrection of the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When many who heard Peter felt sorry and asked what they should do, he told them to \_\_\_\_\_  
from their sins, be \_\_\_\_\_, and God the Holy Spirit would bless them. He would give them \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
12. Peter said, "The promise is for you and your \_\_\_\_\_." Peter wanted to baptize children too.
13. The Holy Spirit creates sorrow for our sins and faith in Jesus our Savior in both \_\_\_\_\_ and young \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Little children and babies are not able to \_\_\_\_\_ about the Holy Spirit's work, but older children and adults show their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with their words and actions.

(Check your answers on page 103)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 4, Lesson 15:**

#### **Baptized by one Spirit into one body**

---

There was energy in the air the following Wednesday night. The three couples were closer to the time for their babies to be born. Everyone was talking about God's great gift of baptism. They were sounding more sure that baptism is meant for children as well as for adults. But no one was prepared for the strange ideas that now came from Pastor Pedro.

"Last week I was looking at our plans for this year's Christmas Eve service," Pedro began. "The special service where all the choirs sing the Christmas story. That's when we hear music instead of listening to a sermon," Max said.

"Yes, well anyway," Pedro quickly cut him off. "I have decided that only the adult choir will sing this year. I don't think we really need to have the Sunday school children sing."

"Don't need to have the Sunday school children sing?" Corina repeated in great shock. "You can't be serious. People love it when the children sing!"

"Yes and no," Pedro replied. "We always have a few children who can't sing very well. Yet, they sing really loud, and so it sounds really bad. Then we have a few preschoolers. They just can't sit still through their entire songs. Their area always looks like a playground. At least two or three of the older children will not remember their songs and will try to fake it. That looks so bad. And one or

two children will have clothes so messy it will take something away from the whole group. Do the children really add that much to the evening? Do they really need to be a part of the service?"

The three couples were unable to speak. They could hardly believe what they were hearing. They all began yelling at once. "How can you talk about the children that way?" Jenette demanded. "They're just children!"

"The parents do the best they can with them!" Max added with anger. "And some parents can't afford nice clothes."

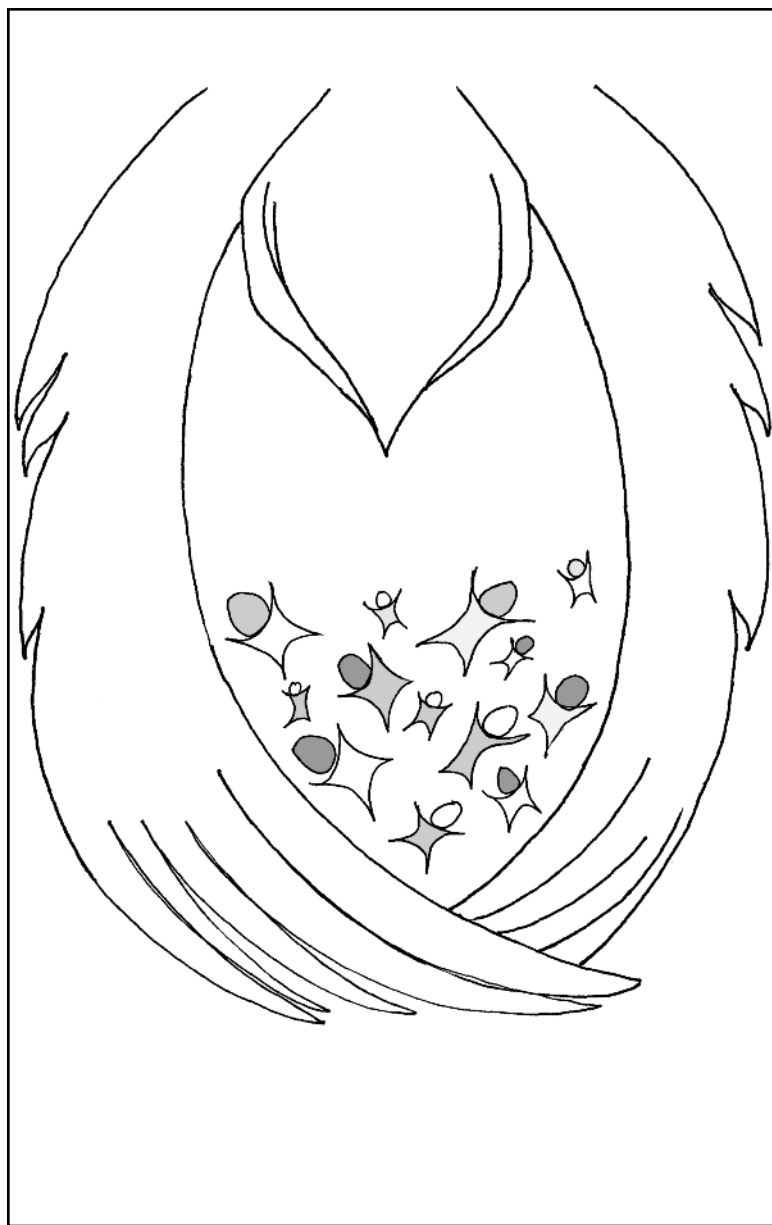
"But, I mean, really..." Pastor Pedro fought back. "Overall, do the children really add that much to the service?" The three couples looked like they were ready to explode.

"They are our church's children!" Luc erupted. "They show that they know Jesus and love him. They tell about the Savior's birth!"

"At times, their faith is a lot stronger than mine," Max spoke out. His sudden honesty surprised everyone. "Those Sunday school children mean a lot to me!"

No longer able to hold back, Pedro had to laugh. Instantly, the three couples became aware of what had happened. They stopped yelling. "Not again!" everyone moaned. Pastor Pedro had fooled them all.

"Of course the Sunday school children will sing in the Christmas program," Pedro said. He quickly hid his laughter when he noticed that no one else was laughing. The three couples looked really upset. "Sorry," Pedro said,



*Many people are under the huge wings of the Holy Spirit.*



as he tried to keep a straight face. “I just wanted to teach you all something about baptism.

“Okay, let’s open our Bibles to 1 Corinthians 12:12 13a. Luc, will you please read the verses?”

Luc narrowed his eyes, showing Pedro that he clearly was not pleased. But he reached for his Bible, found the verse, and read it out loud. “There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body.”

Pedro explained, “Paul is putting two pictures side by side. He points out that the human body has many parts, but it is still one body. Then he says it is the same for us Christians. We are many different people. But God is joining us together into one body, which is Christ’s church.

“Paul then says in verses 20 and 21: ‘As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body. The eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”’

“And the pastor can’t say to the children, we don’t need you,” Betty interrupted. There was a sharp edge in her voice. She also did not like being fooled by Pedro yet again.

“You are right, Betty,” Pedro quickly said. He was trying to undo the earlier damage. “Our church, like every group of believers, needs the children. Children add many good things to the life of our church. The children are the church. We must include them.”

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

“Look again at Paul’s words. He shows how the children become believers. God makes them members of one body which is Christ.”

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,”  
Ron read.

“There we see it yet again,” Pedro replied. “The Holy Spirit creates faith in a child through baptism. He makes the child a member of the one body, the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“How else could a baby believe in Jesus? There is no other way for a baby to join the body of believers.” Corina’s voice was firm as she said this. “Paul says ‘we were all baptized.’ All includes every church member, so that would have to include the children. The Holy Spirit creates faith in a child through baptism. He makes the child a member of the body of believers. In this verse Paul very clearly says that the babies and children of the church were being baptized!”

Pedro thanked Corina for her wise words. Then he asked Luc to close the class with prayer. As everyone began to leave, Pedro couldn’t resist: “So, we all want the children to take part in the Christmas Eve service?”

“No one does it like our children,” Max replied. No doubt the angels above smiled at his words.

**Things to Remember:**

15. The Bible says, “We were \_\_\_\_\_ baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body.”
16. The word “all” includes both adults and \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Through baptism, the Holy Spirit creates \_\_\_\_\_ in a child.
18. Through baptism, children become \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, Christ’s body.

(Check your answers on page 103)

**REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**  
**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 4**

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The New Testament of the Bible shows us that both adults and babies were baptized. This is what Jesus told his followers to provide baptism for all nations. The Bible says many times that entire families were baptized. Peter preached about baptism and the blessing of the Holy Spirit that comes through baptism. He said, “The promise is for you and your children,” showing that baptism is for all. The Holy Spirit brings people together as one body of believers in Jesus through baptism. Through baptism, even little children become members of the church, which is Christ’s body.

**Things to remember-Answers-Part 4**

1. nations; 2. everyone; 3. children; 4. baptized; 5. family; 6. all, family; 7. baptized; 8. house; 9. children; 10. Son of God; 11. turn away, baptized, faith, forgiveness; 12. children; 13. adults, children; 14. talk, change of heart, belief; 15. all; 16. children; 17. faith; 18. members.

## TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:

A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children

### Part 4

*Please review "Things to remember."*

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1. Jesus has said that we must "...Go and make disciples of all \_\_\_\_\_. Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
2. When the Bible uses the word "nation" to describe a group of people, it means \_\_\_\_\_, adults and children.
3. Jesus wants us to baptize \_\_\_\_\_ as well as adults.
4. Cornelius, his relatives, and close friends were \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Paul baptized the \_\_\_\_\_ of Lydia, the jailer at Philippi, Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and of Stephanus.
6. Baptized families would have included \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Peter told the crowd in Jerusalem to be \_\_\_\_\_ and God the Holy Spirit would bless them.
8. Peter said, "The promise is for you and your \_\_\_\_\_." Peter wanted to baptize children too.
9. The Bible says, "We were \_\_\_\_\_ baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body."

**Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

10. The word “all” includes both adults and

\_\_\_\_\_.

11. Through baptism, the Holy Spirit creates

\_\_\_\_\_ in a child.

12. Through baptism, children become \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, Christ’s body.

(Check your answers on page 178)





## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 5:**  
**The evidence of infant baptism**  
**from early church history**



## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 5, Lesson 16:**

The testimony of Irenaeus

---

“Too bad there were no cameras back in Jesus’ time,” Jenette said at the start of class. “We would have photos of Jesus’ disciples baptizing children.”

“Well, I believe we do have good proof of that,” Pastor Pedro replied. “First, the Bible shows us many times and places where children were baptized. Peter called for the baptism of both adults and children at Pentecost. Peter himself baptized the family of Cornelius. Paul baptized the families of Lydia, the jailer at Philippi, Crispus, and Stephanus. These are ‘photos’ from the Bible. They are pictures in words that God sent to us! In addition, we have something more. We have proof of babies being baptized that comes from the writings of the early church fathers.”

“Who were the early church fathers?” Betty asked.

“These men were leaders of the Christian church. They lived in the years after the time of the apostles. You may remember that John was the last apostle. He died about 100 years after Jesus was born. Then new church leaders rose up. We call these men the early church fathers. So, first came the time of the apostles. Then, the next 300 years were the age of the early church fathers. Many of these church fathers wrote about the life and work of the church during their time. It is not surprising that the early church leaders wrote about infant baptism!”



*Two New Testament believers taking their baby  
to the house church.*

Luc suddenly had a thought. “Did the church fathers say that Jesus’ disciples baptized children?”

“Let’s find out tonight,” Pedro replied. “I want to start by drawing a line on the whiteboard. This is a timeline. I will use it to show you how close these people lived to each other in time. On the left end of the timeline, I will write the year when we think Jesus was born. There are different ideas about the exact year. Next, I will put a mark not far to the right. This is 33 years later when Jesus completed his earthly ministry. At that time, he gave the command to make disciples of all nations through baptizing and teaching. Then he went to heaven.

“Do you and I fit on this timeline? No, we are living over 2,000 years after the birth of Christ. We will not be able to put ourselves on this little timeline. Too many years have gone by. This line will picture only 400 years.

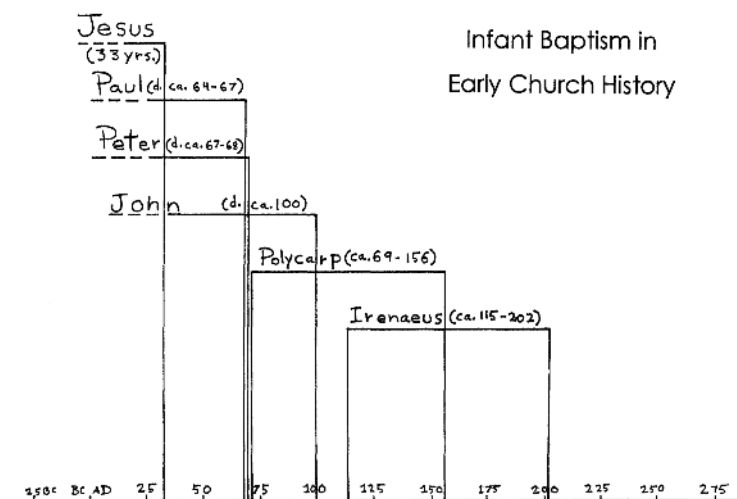
“We don’t know the years when Jesus’ apostles lived,” Pastor Pedro went on. “The Bible does not say what year they were born or what year they died. However, we can make good guesses, especially on when the apostles died. The Bible tells us about things that happened in the world during the lives of these men. These details help us guess when they lived and died. Therefore, we think that Peter died in the year 67 or 68. Paul died sometime around the years 64 to 67. And John died in the year 100.” Pedro added the three apostles to the timeline.

“Now let’s meet some important church fathers who wrote about baptism. All of them agree about infant baptism. They say that the apostles taught the church to baptize children. These writings of the church fathers are valuable.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

They show that the church has never stopped baptizing children!”

The three couples were excited to hear this. They copied the timeline into their notes. Then they sat ready to add the names and dates of several important early church fathers. Pedro began with the first new names.



“The first person we will add is Irenaeus. He lived around 115 to 202 years after Jesus was born. As you can see, this was very near the time of the apostles. Let’s also place Polycarp on the timeline. He lived from about 69 to 156. These two men knew each other. In fact, as a young man, Irenaeus heard Polycarp preach. And Polycarp knew one of the twelve apostles. He had been a student of the apostle John! John was one of Jesus’ closest disciples!” The three couples quickly placed Polycarp and Irenaeus on their timelines and wrote down the dates.

“So, what Irenaeus believed and taught could be linked to Polycarp. Polycarp was taught by John. And John was taught by Jesus,” Ron declared.

“Exactly,” Pedro replied. He reached for a large notebook. “I have here one of Irenaeus’ writings on baptism. This is what he said: ‘For he [Jesus] came to save all through means of himself all, I say, who through him are born again to God infants, and children, and boys, and youths and old men.’”\*

“I have a friend who is a teacher. Listen to what he wrote about these important words from Irenaeus. He said that the words, ‘born again to God’ are special. They are the common way of speaking about baptism in the church of that time. When Irenaeus said that infants are born again to God, he meant that they are baptized. Clearly, he knew about infant baptism. The baptism of babies began at the time of the apostles. And it continued in the time of Irenaeus.”\*

Corina raised her hand to speak. “So Irenaeus knew Polycarp. Polycarp had been a student of the apostle John. Irenaeus heard Polycarp preach. And, Irenaeus taught that infants and children were to be baptized. To me that is very strong evidence. It shows that the apostles taught the church to baptize children!”

“Irenaeus was not alone. There were other men who also wrote about baptizing infants,” Pedro continued. “Let’s look at another early church father. His name is Hippolytus.” Pedro turned to the whiteboard to add this new name to the timeline.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ trained men to lead the church after they were gone.
2. These new church leaders are called the “church \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. The apostle \_\_\_\_\_ trained a man named Polycarp, and Polycarp trained Irenaeus.
4. Irenaeus, who lived 50-100 years after the apostles, taught that \_\_\_\_\_ and children were to be \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 131)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 5, Lesson 17:**

#### **The testimony of Hippolytus**

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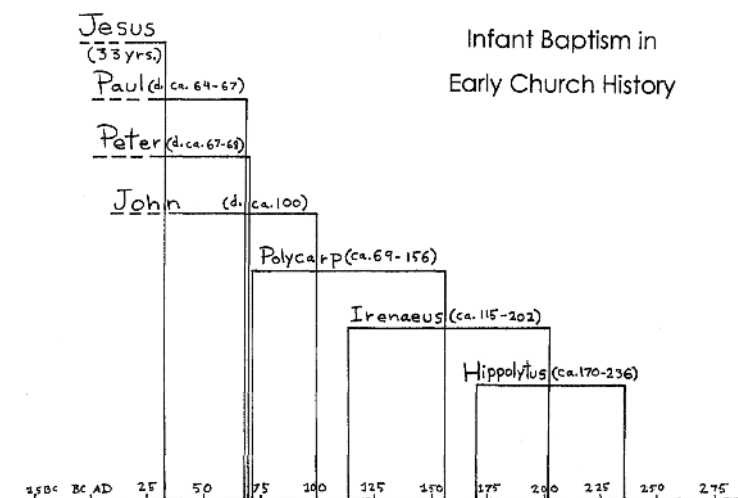
Pedro began. “Hippolytus lived around the years 170 to 236 after Christ was born. Hippolytus had been a student of Irenaeus! So, Hippolytus learned from Irenaeus, who learned from Polycarp, who learned from John the apostle. The writings of Hippolytus tell us what the Christian church believed and did during the years he lived. Clearly, this was not long after the time that Jesus and the apostles lived.

“We would not agree with everything Hippolytus taught about Christ,” Pedro continued. “But Hippolytus does show us that during his time the church baptized children. Christians had been doing this since the time of the apostles. Now, Hippolytus wrote directions on how to do baptisms in church services. In those services, the leaders were to baptize both adults and children. He wrote, ‘First you should baptize the little ones. All who can speak for themselves should speak. But for those who cannot speak, their parents should speak or another who belongs to their family.’”\*

Betty looked at the other couples. “That is exactly how we do it in our church!” she said. “The parents speak for the babies and small children who can’t speak for themselves. The parents answer Pastor Pedro’s questions.”

“The Holy Spirit creates faith in the child. The parents give voice to the child’s faith,” Pedro reminded everyone. “Now, here is what makes the writings of Hippolytus so important.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



We learn this from a teacher named Jeremias. Jeremias said that the advice of Hippolytus on how to baptize infants became very popular. It became the rule for ‘a great part of the church’ in many countries! And listen to something else he said. Hippolytus’ writings on infant baptism were put into many languages and used for hundreds of years!”\*

“What powerful evidence for infant baptism!” Max really was excited. Let me see if I understand: Hippolytus lived about 200 years after Jesus’ birth. His thoughts about how to baptize may have been handed down to him from the apostle John. Hippolytus wrote a guide on how to baptize both infants and adults. His guide was put into many languages and used in many countries for hundreds of years. Think of how many babies were baptized, starting from the time of the apostles and for hundreds of years after that!”

Corina agreed, “It never stopped. Jesus wanted children baptized. And they were baptized, for hundreds of years.



History shows us this. Why have some churches stopped baptizing children?"

"Let's add one more church father to our notes," Pedro said. "He lived during the middle of the third century." Pedro wanted to tell them about Origen. The couples happily picked up their pencils to add another name to their timelines.

**Things to Remember:**

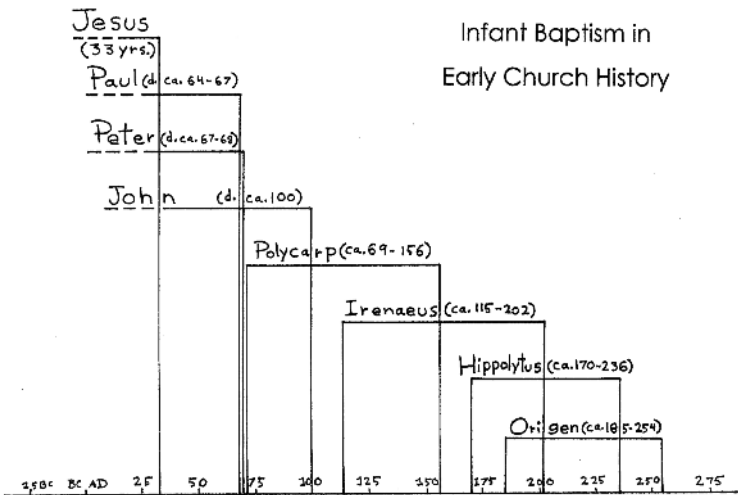
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ father called Hippolytus was trained by Irenaeus.
6. Hippolytus wrote advice for the church showing how to baptize adults and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Because his written advice was used in many different countries for many hundreds of years, it is clear that the \_\_\_\_\_ of infants was well-known.

(Check your answers on page 131)

**Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**  
A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children

**Part 5, Lesson 18:**  
The testimony of Origen

“We know a few details about the life of Origen,” Pedro began. “He was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in the years 184 or 185 after Christ. He was the oldest of seven children. We think Origen’s parents were Christians. His father, Leonides, studied much and taught Origen at home. But when Origen was 17 or 18, his father was arrested. The Roman emperor at the time wanted Christians to die. Leonides was on death row. Origen wanted to leave home to join his father. But his mother kept him from leaving the house by hiding his clothes! So Origen wrote his father a letter. He urged him to stay strong in the faith even in the face of death.



“Origen moved to the home of a rich Christian woman who was able to protect him. He stayed there for about a year and continued to study. He also taught Greek writings in order to support his mother who had all those children to feed. Later, Origen became a famous teacher at the school of religion in the city of Alexandria in Egypt. He also served as a leader for the Eastern part of the Christian church. Origen died in 254.

“Earlier, I said that we do not agree with everything Hippolytus taught,” Pedro continued. “We also would not agree with everything Origen taught about Christianity. But Origen’s writings help us by reporting that during his time the church baptized children.

“Origen wrote that the apostles taught the Christian church the custom of baptizing infants as well as adults. Teachers in the church knew very well that all people are sinful at birth. Sin must be washed off by water and the Spirit.”\*

Pedro could hardly contain his excitement. “In three separate writings Origen says that the church was baptizing infants.\* In each writing, Origen reminds his readers that children inherit a sinful nature from Adam and Eve. We saw this in the Bible too. In all three writings about infant baptism, Origen refers to Job 14:4. Job said, ‘Who can bring what is pure from something that isn’t pure? No one!’”

“That Bible verse is so clear,” Luc declared. “Since Adam and Eve were sinners, every descendent of Adam and Eve is a sinner. Every child enters the world in need of baptism for forgiveness of sins and freedom from the devil.”

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

Everyone nodded in agreement with Luc's words. Pedro went on, "Here is what makes Origen's writings so important to our talk about infant baptism. Origen went on many long trips. He visited Rome, Greece, Western Syria, Cappadocia, and parts of Arabia.\* He spent time at many churches in those countries. So Origen knows what he is saying when he calls infant baptism 'the custom of the church.' He is telling us what he saw wherever he went. Origen never says that any church was not baptizing infants."

"And, Origen says that the custom of baptizing children came from the apostles!" Jenette reminded the group.

"Children were certainly being baptized in Origen's day in his home country of Egypt," Pedro said. All of them could now hear a strange hint of mystery in his voice. I know of an Egyptian mummy a child mummy from the third century. I have seen a photo."

The three couples were immediately excited. Pedro continued, "Some say this Egyptian child mummy can show us that the child was baptized. But the story of the amazing mummy will need to wait until next week."

And with that, Pastor Pedro quickly and dramatically turned and left the room. The three surprised couples could hardly wait for next week's class!

**Things to Remember:**

8. A man named Origen is another important church father who wrote about \_\_\_\_\_ baptism.
9. He wrote that the apostles told the church to \_\_\_\_\_ infants.
10. He visited churches in many different countries and said that the baptism of infants was the “\_\_\_\_\_ of the church.”

(Check your answers on page 131)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 5, Lesson 19:**

#### **The little girl mummy**

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“You promised to tell us about an Egyptian child mummy,” Max called out as Pedro entered the classroom. Pedro smiled. He set down his stack of books and papers and greeted the three couples. Then, searching through a file folder, he came upon the photo. He laid it in the middle of the table.

Everyone stood up and bent forward to see. A few gasped at the sight. The photo revealed a child-size coffin made of clay the coffin of an Egyptian child mummy! As the couples stared at the strange photo, Pedro began to speak.

“There was a famous scholar on infant baptism named Jeremias. He came upon this coffin in the collections of the British Museum in London. An expert from the museum helped Jeremias. He told Jeremias that the child inside the coffin was only 30 inches (74 centimeters) long. This meeting in the museum happened back in 1957.”\*

“How old was the child when he or she died?” Betty asked softly. “Jeremias estimated that the child was less than four years old.”

Everyone felt sad about that. The three couples looked carefully at the photo as Pedro continued. “The coffin is made of clay. As the artist made the coffin, he or she made some drawings and symbols in the wet clay. These drawings and symbols tell us some things about the mummified child inside.”

“Is it a boy or a girl?” Ron asked. “It has eyes and hair like a girl, but it also looks like it has a small beard or something.”

Pedro replied, ‘The coffin shows a little girl with her hair dressed in ringlets. Under the chin the beard of Osiris can be seen.’\*

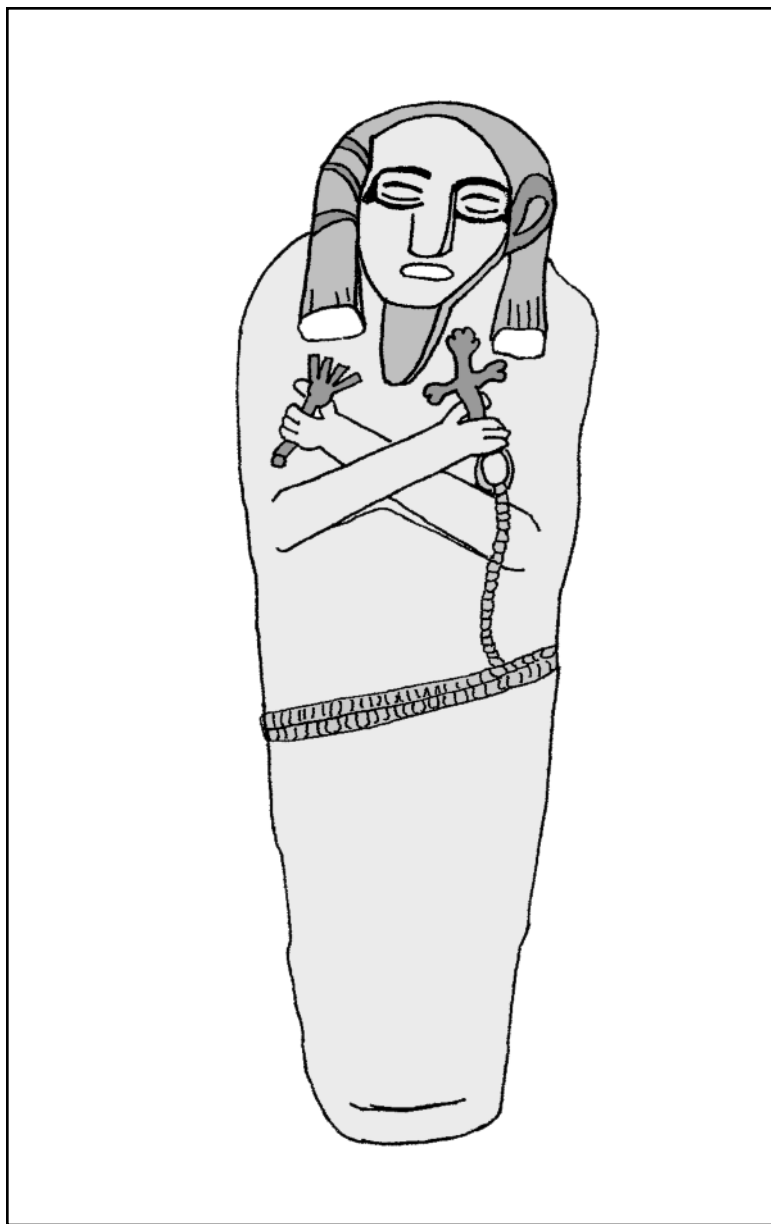
“Osiris was the Egyptian god of the afterlife,” Pedro explained. “Jeremias tells us that we see here ‘the old custom of making a little girl look like Osiris by showing his features on the coffin.’”\*

Betty broke in, “And look at her hands! In one hand she has a cross, and in the other hand a little flower or something. Does that mean the little girl was a Christian?” Everyone eagerly looked up at Pedro, waiting for his answer.

“Jeremias thinks that the family of this little girl mixed two religions\*,” Pedro said. “We see some symbols from the traditional religion of the pharaohs. Notice the lotus flower in her one hand. That was the Egyptian sign of rebirth. Also, we see the beard of Osiris. He was the god of the afterlife.

“But,” Pedro continued, “in the girl’s other hand we see a fancy cross with saw-like ends and a long handle. At the end of the handle of the cross is a large ring with a chain connected to it. The chain goes twice around the child’s body. The cross and chain are very clear in the clay likeness of the child.”

“So what does it all mean?” Max’s question showed his concern.



*Egyptian mummy girl.*



“And, if you don’t mind me saying, what does it have to do with our class on baptism?” Corina added.

“Here is what Jeremias said about the little girl inside the coffin. He based his thoughts on the amazing drawings and symbols on the outside of the coffin,” Pedro replied.

“Jeremias looked at the cross attached to the chain wrapped around her body. He thought someone placed the cross in her right hand in the hour of death. He said this shows that she was a Christian child. *And so, because of what Origen wrote about infants being baptized in the Egyptian Church at that time, we think that the little girl was baptized.*”\*

“The little girl was baptized. She had saving faith in her heart! She must be in heaven right now!” Jenette joyously said, wiping away more than a few tears from the corners of her eyes.

“It is an amazing story,” said Max. “I personally believe that the little girl was baptized.”

“Perhaps I should bring more true stories like that. We love to hear about infants who were baptized during the first few hundred years after Jesus’ life.” Pedro smiled as he said this. Then, lowering his voice, he mysteriously announced: “There is evidence that speaks from graves during the first few hundred years after Christ. There are stories left behind by those long dead.”

Without another word, Pedro quickly turned and left the room. He left the photo on the table. The three couples were in no hurry. They stayed to think about the story. They would never forget the story of a little Egyptian girl who died with a cross in her hand.

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

### **Things to Remember:**

11. People found the mummy of a four-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ who died at the time of Origen (100 to 150 years after the apostles).
12. Details, like a cross the child is holding, show that she was a \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 131)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 5, Lesson 20:**

Grandma speaks from the graveyard

---

“Who loves their grandma?” Pedro asked as he entered the classroom.

Everyone’s hand shot up.

“And your grandmas all love you?” Pedro asked.

“Don’t be silly,” Max replied. “Grandmas love their grandchildren more than anything.” Everyone laughed and agreed.

“I have a story that comes from a tomb in Rome. That is, from an underground burial site. The story is about a grandmother that lived over 1700 years ago\*,” Pedro announced.

“A story about the grandmother’s ghost?” Betty asked with a slight shudder.

“No,” Pedro replied. “The story was cut onto a flat stone and placed on the wall in the tomb of the grandmother’s grandson.\* Stone markers (or plaques) like that one had the same purpose that our tombstones have today. They revealed the burial sites. And they remembered and honored the dead. The grandmother lost her grandson when he was very young. The father of the dead boy wrote a story about his son and his son’s grandma. Then he hired someone to cut the words into the stone plaque and placed it where the little child was buried.”



*The Roman catacombs.*

“Well, you would need a really big stone plaque to write a whole story on it,” Ron said. He had a hint of disbelief in his voice.

“In those days in Italy, people sometimes wrote several complete sentences on these plaques,” Pedro replied. “Here is what the plaques looked like back then.” Pedro pulled out a photocopy of a carved stone marker for a tomb. It had many lines of words cut into it.

“So why tell us a story about a grandma and her grandson?” Betty asked pointedly yet politely.

“Because this grandmother was a Christian,” Pedro replied. “It seems that when the grandma’s grandson was dying, she wanted him to be baptized to save his eternal soul. The boy was only two years old. His name was Apronianus. Here is what the stone says.”\*

Pedro read the words, written in ancient Greek, from the stone plaque at the tomb of the little boy:

“Dedicated to the departed.  
Florentius made this inscription  
for his worthy son Apronianus who lived  
one year and nine months and five days.  
As he was truly loved by his grandmother  
and she knew his death was coming soon,  
she asked the church that he might  
depart from the world as a believer.”

Everyone sat in silence. They were thinking about a child dying so young. Pedro quietly explained the details of the short yet surprising story.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

“The father of little Apronianus was named Florentius. We think Florentius was an unbeliever. Grandma was a believer. Grandma knew her Bible and the Good Lord’s promises on baptism.

“Grandma knew her grandson Apronianus was going to die soon. Grandma went to her church and asked the church for its help. She wanted her grandson to depart from the world as a believer. It seems that Florentius agreed to this, because he let someone cut the story into the gravestone. *How did the early church make sure infants were believers? They baptized them as God commands!* The church knew that the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in a child through baptism. And so, little Apronianus was baptized. And upon his early death Apronianus went home to Jesus.”

It was a simple yet powerful story. The grandmother’s act to save the soul of her dying grandson touched everyone deeply. Pedro quietly picked up his papers and folders as he spoke.

“In his book on infant baptism, Jeremias tells about more children like this one. He shows us four Roman plaques on children’s tombs in the third century. The tombstones tell us the exact date of baptism. In each case, baptism was given when the child was at the point of death.\* Make no mistake about it,” Pedro told the three couples. “The early church followed the example of Jesus’ disciples and apostles. They made sure the children were baptized!”

**Things to Remember:**

13. The burial place of a two-year-old boy who died in Italy about 200 years after the apostles tells the story of his \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The writing on the outside of his tomb says that when his grandmother knew the little boy was dying, she asked the church “that he might depart from the world as a \_\_\_\_\_.”
15. She knew that the Holy Spirit creates saving \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 131)

**REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**  
**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 5**

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Writings that come from the years following the time of the apostles tell us that the Christian church baptized infants. We learn this from some of the church fathers.

**Things to remember-Answers-Part 5**

1. apostles; 2. fathers; 3. John; 4. infants, baptized; 5. church; 6. infants;  
7. baptism; 8. infant; 9. baptize; 10. custom; 11. child; 12. baptized  
Christian; 13. baptism; 14. believer; 15. faith, baptism.



## **TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 5**

*Please review “Things to remember.”*

---

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ trained men to lead the church after they were gone.
2. The name history has given to these new church leaders is the “church \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. The apostle \_\_\_\_\_ trained a man called Polycarp, and Polycarp trained Irenaeus.
4. Irenaeus, who lived 50-100 years after the apostles, taught that \_\_\_\_\_ and children were to be baptized.
5. A church \_\_\_\_\_ called Hippolytus was trained by Irenaeus.
6. Hippolytus wrote advice for the church showing how to do the baptism of adults and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Because his written advice was used in many different countries for many centuries, it is clear that the baptism of \_\_\_\_\_ was well-known.
8. A man named Origen is another important church father who wrote about infant \_\_\_\_\_.
9. He wrote that the \_\_\_\_\_ told the church to baptize infants.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

10. He visited churches in many different countries and said that the baptism of infants was the “\_\_\_\_\_ of the church.”
11. People found the mummy of a four-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ who died at the time of Origen.
12. Details, like a \_\_\_\_\_ the child is holding, show that she was Christian and therefore was baptized.
13. The burial place of a two-year-old boy who died in Italy about 200 years after the apostles tells the story of his \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Writing on the outside of his tomb says that when his grandmother knew the little boy was dying, she asked the church “that he might depart from the world as a \_\_\_\_\_.”
15. She knew that the Holy Spirit creates saving \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 178)





## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**PART 6:**  
**Common objections to infant baptism**

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 6, Lesson 21:**

Common objections to infant baptism, Part 1

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“Pastor, we brought a friend along tonight.” Ron announced this as he entered the classroom. “I hope you don’t mind. He is our neighbor Antonio. I told him that Corina and I were thinking about baptizing our baby. Antonio does not believe in baptizing babies. I thought you could perhaps answer some of his questions.”

“I would be glad to,” Pedro immediately replied. He reached out to shake Antonio’s hand. “Let us look together at what God teaches us in his Word about infant baptism.”

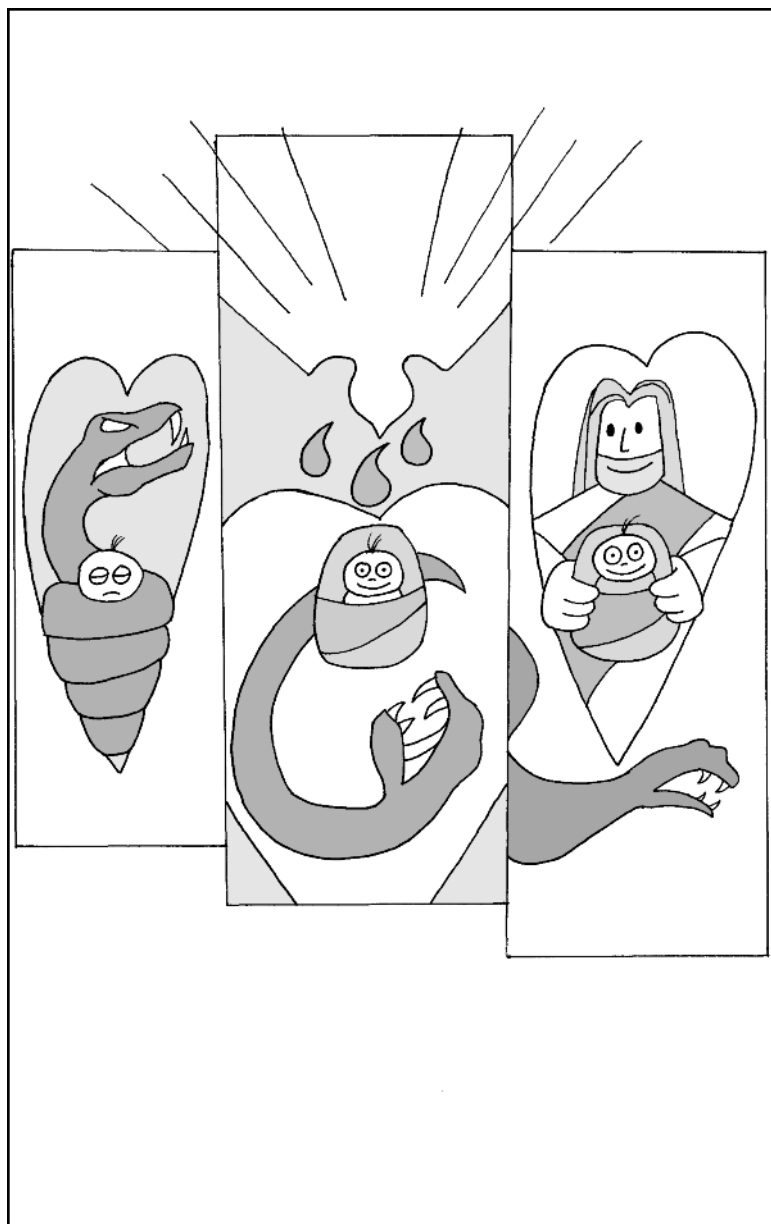
“Thank you very much, Pastor,” Antonio said. “Thank you for taking time to answer my questions. Do you know the first thing I said to Ron and Corina when I heard they were thinking of baptizing the baby? I said that a loving God does not blame little children for their actions, for their sins. I mean, what is God going to do? Will he send away little children forever to hell? What kind of God would that be?”

“Let me write your thoughts on the whiteboard,” Pedro replied. He turned and wrote on the board:

**Babies and little children are not  
accountable to God for their sins.**

Antonio agreed that the sentence said what he thought. “I am aware of the verse you use that describes children, even babies, as sinners,” Antonio began. “Psalm 51:5: ‘I know

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



*All babies are born spiritually dead but through baptism  
they are made alive with Jesus!*

I've been a sinner ever since I was born. I've been a sinner ever since my mother became pregnant with me.' I do agree that children are sinners. But I am also saying that God does not blame children for their sins. This is what I said before. If we have a loving God, he would not send children to hell. Children do not know what they are doing. First, children need to reach the age of accountability."

Pedro replied. "A friend of mine once wrote to me about this very topic. He said that many people agree that children are sinful from birth. But they also agree with you that children are not accountable to God for their sins. But there is a big problem with this idea. Where does the Bible say that children are not guilty until they reach the age of accountability? Romans 3:19 says that the whole world is accountable to God. Paul warns, "When you sin, the pay you get is death" (Romans 6:23). *If children were not accountable for their sins, they would not die. Death answers the question. Children are accountable for their sins. We know this because they die, just as all other people do.\**

Pedro waited for Antonio to reply. "Of course it's true, children can die," Antonio admitted. "I never thought of that. I never made the connection before. Children can die. This shows that they are held accountable for their sins."

"There you have it," Pedro smiled. "Children need God's grace and forgiveness. They receive it in baptism. The story of Jesus blessing the children clearly shows that there are two different kinds of children. Some children have God's grace. Some do not have God's grace!" Pedro pulled another book from his bag. "Listen to what another teacher says about this. He says that some Christians muddy the water of baptism with another false belief. They think that

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

infants have God's grace automatically, as soon as they are born. But none of the gospel stories about Christ and the little children teach this idea. These stories teach how to receive God's kingdom. But *not all infants have received the kingdom*. Someone else wrote that Jesus does not say, 'the Kingdom of God belongs to children.' He said the Kingdom belongs to those children who are brought to him."\*

Antonio broke in, "At our church, we bring our children forward in order to dedicate them to God and to have them blessed. That's the way Jesus did it. He laid his hands on the children. We follow his example. Jesus didn't baptize children. When we dedicate our children to the Lord, they receive the Lord's grace and protection!"

Pedro turned and wrote Antonio's new point on the whiteboard.

**Jesus blessed the children;  
he did not baptize them.**

Pedro began in a confident yet gentle voice. "Nowhere in the Bible do we find a command from Jesus to dedicate children. Jesus laid his hands on the small children, as we see in Mark chapter 10. But he did not command us to do the same thing. However, Jesus does command us to baptize children. When Jesus tells us to baptize 'all nations,' he is telling us to baptize children too. This is what he says in Matthew 28:19. Then, the New Testament reports that entire households were baptized. This would have included children. *The Bible does not say that the apostles dedicated children to Jesus. And they did not tell anyone else to do this.* There is nothing in the Bible like the dedication ceremonies that some churches have today.



“But what about the fact that Jesus never baptized any children?” Antonio said.

“We have no record that Jesus baptized adults either!” Pedro replied. “Jesus’ disciples baptized children in Jesus’ day. And when Jesus left the earth, his apostles continued to baptize children. Listen to what Peter says in his Pentecost sermon. The promises of baptism are ‘for you and your children.’ After the sermon, Peter and the other apostles would have baptized both adults and children. The Bible says that Paul helped to baptize four ‘households’ or families. Paul clearly baptized children.

Antonio sat quietly for a moment. All that Pedro had said was true to the Bible. Yet, one huge question still bothered him. He looked carefully at Pedro. “So you are saying that if children die without being baptized, they go to hell?” Pedro wrote the question on the whiteboard.

### **Are unbaptized children who die sent to hell?**

“Let’s look at several stories in the Bible,” Pedro began. “There are many Old Testament stories about God’s chosen people, the children of Israel. Think of when they went to war against their enemies. Those wars are examples of God’s perfect and just judgment. He destroyed men, women, children, and babies of some unbelieving nations. Some of those nations were the Amalekites, Babylonians, and the Ninevites.\* The book of Exodus tells us about the final plague in Egypt. There we read that God destroyed the first-born children of the Egyptians. Also, there were times when God destroyed the little children in the families of Israel because they worshipped false gods.\* In each of these Bible stories, children were judged by God. In the final book of the Bible we read: ‘And I saw the dead, great

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

and small, standing in front of the throne... the dead were judged... Anyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire' (Revelation 20:12, 13, 15)."

"Great and small were thrown into hell? What exactly does that mean?" Jenette quietly asked.

"In the Bible, the phrase, 'great and small,' always refers to age, not to size," Pedro replied, his voice breaking a bit. "Children have indeed been condemned."

"But how could a loving God send children to hell? It doesn't seem right!" Antonio burst out. Everyone looked intently at Pastor Pedro, seeking an answer.

"Think about what you are saying, Antonio," Pedro gently replied. "Are you wiser than God? Are you saying that God is not fair? He is not a just God? Be very careful, Antonio. Would you, Antonio, sit here and judge Almighty God?"

For a few minutes, everyone thought about this. God could decide to destroy unbelieving children forever along with their unbelieving parents. The entire group sat in stunned silence.

"It just doesn't seem right. It doesn't seem fair to those children," Luc said. These were the feelings of pretty much everyone. "If God is loving..." he began. Then he stopped himself and lowered his head.

Pedro softly continued. "A friend of mine, Pastor Norb, once wrote that we should not ask questions that blame God. We should not ask, 'How can God?' or 'If God is all loving and all powerful, why would he...?'" Norb wrote,

“When we ask those questions, we think we are more just, more loving, more knowing than God is. To me, that is sinful pride.”\*

Pedro let those words sink in for a moment and then continued. “The Bible tells us that both adults and children are in heaven. The Bible also says that both adults and children are in hell. Now listen to this. Another teacher points out that God is not limited. God can do anything to make infants his own. He can do this by rebirth in baptism or he can use some other way. Remember that the Holy Spirit worked in John the Baptist before his birth (Luke 1:15, 44).”\*

Pedro spoke slowly and carefully to his class. “I believe the question today should really be this: ‘Why would a mother and father not want their child baptized?’ The Bible tells parents that Baptism creates saving faith in their child. The child then lives under God’s grace and protection. A teacher friend of mine summarizes much of what we have talked about tonight. ‘All children are born spiritually dead and corrupt in sin. The Scripture offers a means of salvation for little children in baptism. This doesn’t mean that God cannot save unbaptized children or that he damns them. But since he has commanded us to use baptism as a means to give our children rebirth by working faith in their hearts, why shouldn’t parents make use of it?’”\*

“Think carefully about what you have heard tonight.” Pedro said this as he began putting away his materials. “Take to heart those important words: Since God has ‘commanded us to use baptism as a means to give our children rebirth by working faith in their hearts, why shouldn’t parents make use of it?’”

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

And with that, Pastor Pedro began his goodbyes to the three couples. He especially thanked Antonio for his clear and direct questions and his lively participation. Everyone invited Antonio to join them at church on Sunday!

### **Things to Remember:**

1. The Bible tells us that children are \_\_\_\_\_ when they are born.
  - a. holy
  - b. not guilty
  - c. sinful
2. The Bible says that all people are \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins. We know that children are accountable because they can \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Children receive God's forgiveness in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God does not tell us to \_\_\_\_\_ children to him.
  - a. bring
  - b. dedicate
5. The Bible tells us that entire \_\_\_\_\_ received baptism.
6. God is \_\_\_\_\_ when he judges all people.
7. God commands us to bring children to him through \_\_\_\_.
  - a. baptism
  - b. dedication

(Check your answers on page 168)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 6, Lesson 22:**

Common objections to infant baptism, Part 2

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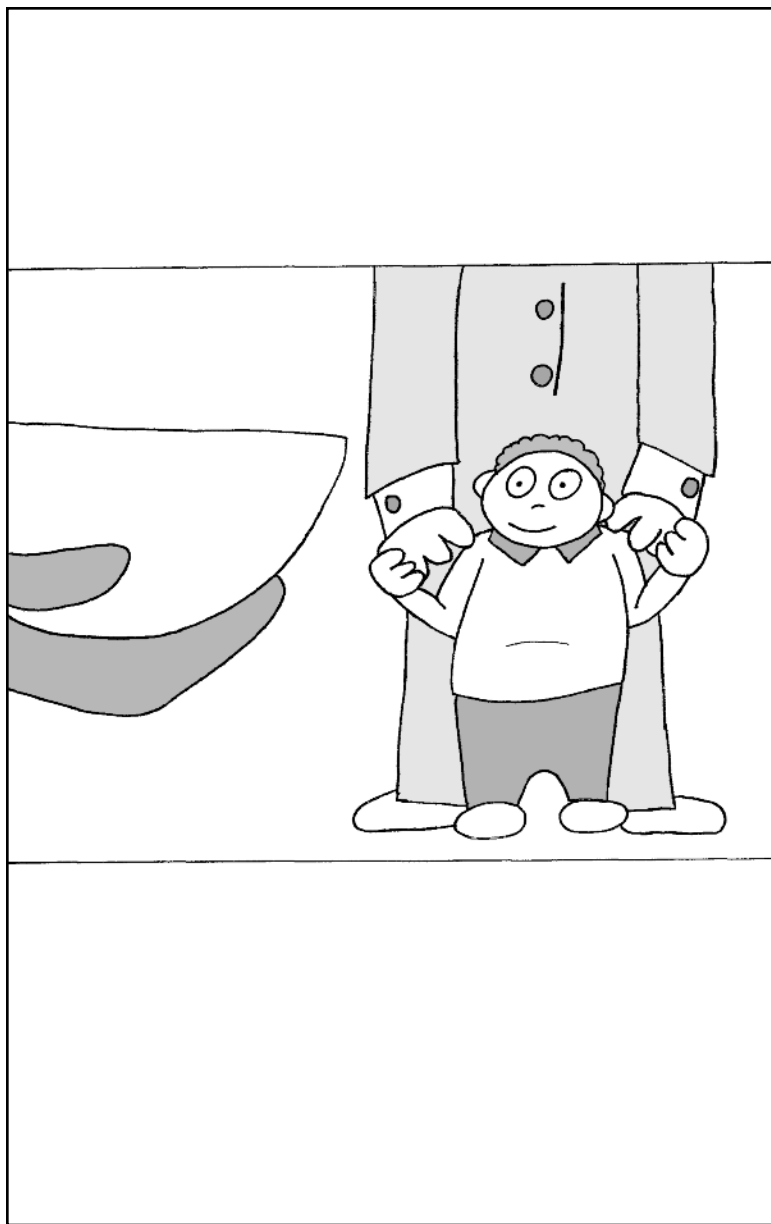
The following Wednesday night, Betty brought a new person to class. She eagerly introduced her longtime friend and neighbor. “This is Sheryl, everyone.” Sheryl explained, in a respectful voice, that the church she belonged to does not believe in infant baptism. So she had come with a few questions. Betty turned to Pastor Pedro and said, “Pastor, Sheryl and I were talking over donuts one day. I told her that our church baptizes children. Sheryl said her pastor is strongly against that. She said he even uses a Bible passage to prove that children don’t need to be baptized. That is, they don’t need baptism if at least one of their parents is a Christian! Could you listen to what Sheryl has to say?”

“Of course,” Pedro replied in a friendly tone. “Thank you, Sheryl, for taking time to join our discussion tonight.”

“Thank you very much for having me, Pastor,” Sheryl replied. “I just wanted to ask one thing. Doesn’t the Bible teach in 1 Corinthians 7:14 that children brought up with a Christian parent are ‘holy’ in God’s sight? That is exactly what the Bible says, ‘they are holy.’ So, God clearly does not hold sins against children who belong to a Christian family. All the members of our church are Christians, so their children do not need to be baptized.”

“Let’s take a close look at that verse,” Pedro offered. “But first, let me write Sheryl’s question on the whiteboard.”

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast



*Baptism saves from sin, death, and the power of the devil!*

**According to 1 Corinthians 7:14,  
aren't children living with a Christian parent  
"holy" in God's sight?**

Pedro opened his Bible and read the verse out loud:

“The unbelieving husband has been made holy through his wife. The unbelieving wife has been made holy through her believing husband. If that were not the case, your children would not be pure and clean. But as it is, they are holy.”

“There you have it,” Sheryl declared. “It says the children are holy. They don’t need to be baptized!” The three couples immediately felt confused and looked to Pedro for his reply.

Pedro smiled, “Let’s look at the passage in its context. That is, let’s look at its surrounding words and sentences and see what Paul is saying. Paul is writing about the blessing that a believing spouse brings to a mixed family. A mixed family is one that includes a believer, an unbelieving spouse, and their unbelieving children. The family could have either a believing dad and an unbelieving mom, or a believing mom and an unbelieving dad. Pedro quickly pulled a book from his bag. “In his book about Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, a teacher clearly explains what being “made holy” means in this context. The unbeliever is “made holy” because he or she has a spouse who is upright, loving, and loyal. That is, the spouse lives a Christian life. The unbelieving spouse receives more blessings than he or she deserves. And the greatest hope of the believing spouse might take place also. The unbelieving husband or wife might become a believer in Jesus.\*

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

“Listen again carefully to Paul’s first point. Paul says that the unbelieving spouse is made ‘holy’ through living with a believer. But the spouse is still an unbeliever.

“Paul then calls the children ‘holy’ the *very same way*. God brings many undeserved *blessings* to both the unbelieving spouse *and to the children* because of the believing spouse.

“The book goes on to explain this idea of the children being ‘holy.’ The children are not inferior, ‘unclean,’ or ‘second class citizens’ because one of the parents does not believe in God. The children hear and see the wonderful faith of the one believing parent. As the Bible teaches, the believing parent hopes to bring the children to baptism and then raise the children in the Christian faith.”

Sheryl cut in, “So when Paul says the children are holy, he does not mean that living in the house with a believing parent saves them?”

“Exactly,” Pedro replied. “Remember, when Paul uses the word ‘holy,’ he describes the children in the same way he describes the *unbelieving* spouse. The word holy means to be separate from something. Marriage to a believer helps to separate the unbelieving spouse from the evil in this world. The unbeliever receives many blessings by living with a believing spouse. Nevertheless, he or she is still an unbeliever. So it is with the children. They are holy in the sense that they receive many blessings by living with a believing parent. But each child still needs to come to faith. That faith is created in a child through God’s gift of baptism.”

Betty turned to her friend. “So when Paul calls the children holy, he is *not* saying that the children are saved because of



the home where they live. That would change what the Bible teaches. The Bible says that everyone needs to believe what it says about Jesus.\* Paul wrote, ‘Say with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.’” (Romans 10:9).

Sheryl thought hard about all that she heard. Pedro continued, “We must let Scripture explain Scripture. As Betty clearly showed, the Bible teaches that each person must have his or her own, personal faith. As my brother Pastor Tony says, ‘We certainly do not teach that an unbeliever married to a believer gets to go to heaven because his or her spouse has faith. Nor do we believe that a child goes to heaven because a parent believes. Each person stands accountable before God. There is not a “designated believer” who believes for his or her family members.’

“Remember,” Pedro warned everyone, “The Bible does not teach that accountability for sin starts later in life. Rather, accountability for sin starts at the beginning of life.”

Sheryl nodded in agreement and smiled in appreciation to Pedro. “Can I ask you one more thing?” she said. “My pastor also refers to Matthew 28:19 when he says that children should not be baptized. Pastor points to the phrase, ‘go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them.’ It is very clear, he says. We are to make disciples first and then baptize. We are to wait until someone is old enough to be taught. The person must become a believer, a disciple. Then we are to baptize that person.”

Pedro wrote Sheryl’s second question on the whiteboard.

**According to Matthew 28:19 and 20 aren't we  
to make disciples first and then baptize?**

Pedro opened his Bible and read the verses out loud.

“So you must go and make disciples of all nations.  
Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey  
everything I have commanded you...”

“Too bad Sheryl missed our discussion on what ‘all nations’ means,” Max said. “I’ll go over it with her later.”

Pedro turned the pages of his notebook and pulled out a paper. “I’ll let Pastor Tony comment on Matthew 28:19. He once said to me that ‘The original biblical text is very important here! The command is to make disciples. That is the work they should do. Jesus’ disciples should make more disciples. The original language shows that next words tell us how to make disciples. Make disciples by means of baptizing and by means of teaching. These are the steps to take. Make disciples by baptizing children and teaching them. The Bible also shows that you teach adults first and then baptize them. That’s how you make disciples!’”

Sheryl immediately understood what Pastor Tony was saying. Pedro repeated the key point: “You make disciples, that is, believers, by baptizing children and by teaching adults.

“This order is seen everywhere in the Bible,” Pedro continued. “We saw it in the examples of the five New Testament households that were baptized. We saw it also with Peter and the apostles’ actions on Pentecost. In all these examples, adults were instructed first, and then they were baptized. With children, they were baptized first. Then

they would be instructed as they grew and were able to learn things.”

Everyone in the class was smiling as they saw Sheryl come to understand. They also felt they understood better too. But Sheryl had one final question. “You say that children are saved when they are baptized. Then do they even need to be taught afterwards? Does a child’s baptism save him or her no matter what?”

“Here is what I think you are asking.” Pedro replied. He turned once again to the whiteboard.

**Does baptizing a child mean that the child will be saved and go to heaven—that the child could never lose salvation?**

Pedro began, “The faith that the Holy Spirit creates in a child through baptism is an *unconscious faith*. The child is not aware of it. A baby does not understand God’s plan of salvation. A little child cannot understand Christ’s sacrifice for sin. Even so, we know that baptism saves. It gives forgiveness. As God says in Acts 22:16, ‘Be baptized. Have your sins washed away.’

“As the child grows older, God wants to turn the child’s unconscious faith into a *conscious faith*.” Pedro pulled a book from his bag and read out loud. Pastor Dass writes this. Scripture teaches that children must be brought up in the faith (Ephesians 6:4). As a child grows and becomes more aware of things, the faith that baptism creates may not grow with the child. A child needs adults who “train them and teach them the ways of the Lord.” Children need help to see the blessings of their baptism. The infant’s baptismal faith must become a *conscious faith*.”\*

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

Sheryl raised her hand one more time. “So, are you saying that the unconscious faith created in the child at baptism must become a conscious faith when the child is old enough to understand things? When the child can think about the story of Jesus and God’s plan of salvation, the child must learn it?”

“That’s exactly right,” Pedro replied, as he turned to the entire class. “Let us not forget one more thing. The Bible speaks of those who once had saving faith but then lost it! Jesus spoke about these sad individuals. He said, ‘They believe for a while but when they are put to the test, they fall away from the faith’ (Luke 8:13). Paul wrote about two men he knew who ‘destroyed their faith’ and were ‘like a ship that has sunk’ (1 Timothy 1:19).

Corina added her thoughts. “It is important that children be taught all about Jesus and the Bible while they are growing up. We don’t want them to lose the faith the Holy Spirit created in them at their baptisms.”

“That is an important point,” Pedro responded. “The infant’s faith must become a conscious faith.”

The class had gone on longer than expected. But all the couples were very pleased to hear Sheryl’s many questions answered by Pastor Pedro. The group closed with prayer. They thanked God for increasing their understanding of his wonderful gift of baptism!

**Things to Remember:**

8. Unbaptized children receive \_\_\_\_\_ by living in a Christian home.
  - a. many blessings
  - b. salvation
  - c. eternal life
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their mother or father separates them from many harmful things, but the faith of their parents cannot \_\_\_\_\_ unbaptized children. Only \_\_\_\_\_ can save them.
10. Jesus wants us to make disciples by \_\_\_\_\_ children and by \_\_\_\_\_ adults.

(Check your answers on page 168)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 6, Lesson 23:**

Common objections to infant baptism, Part 3

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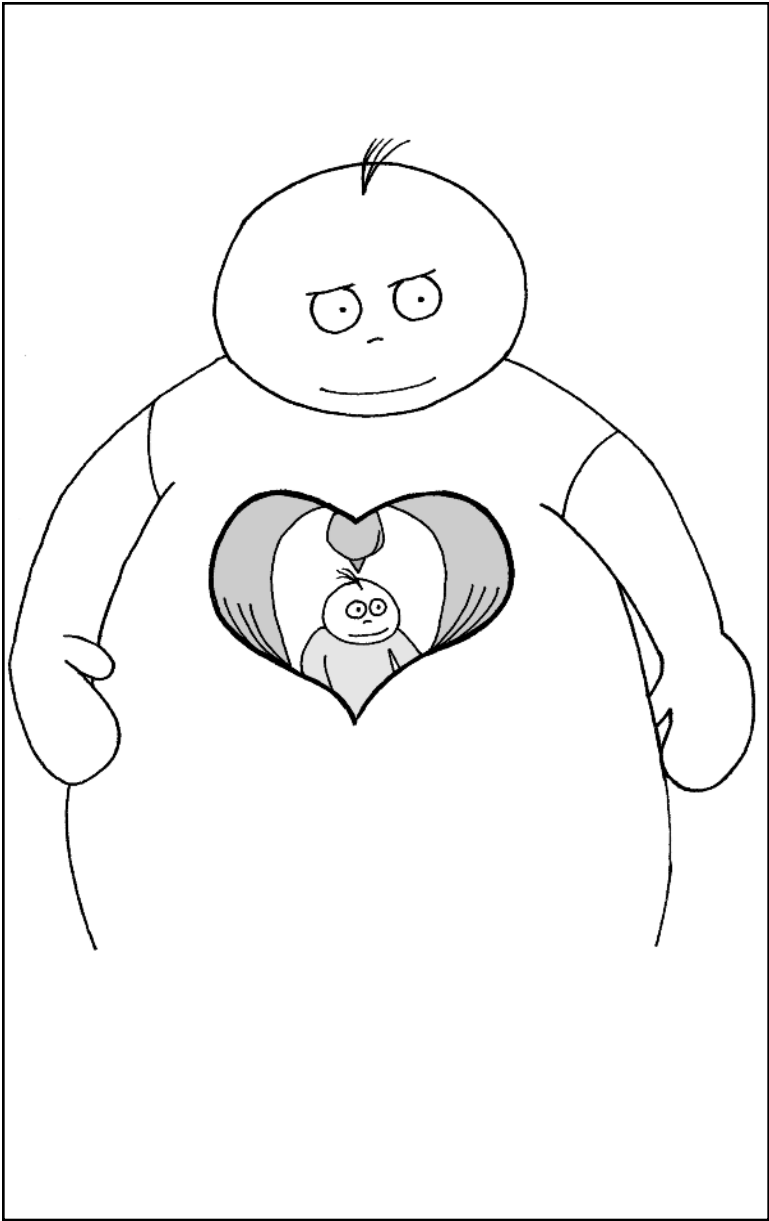
Pedro's Wednesday night class was ready to begin, but Max looked sad. "I invited a friend of mine, Roberto, to join us. But he's not here yet," Max explained. "He's my friend from the factory. He goes to a church that doesn't believe in infant baptism. He said something to me this week that confused me. Roberto pointed to Acts 2:38, "turn away from your sins and be baptized." He said that a person has to be able to repent before they can be baptized. But little children don't know how to repent. They don't understand what repentance is. So, he said, they shouldn't be baptized. It's as simple as that. I didn't know how to answer him."

Pedro wrote Max's question on the whiteboard:

**Don't you need to be able to repent  
before you can be baptized?**

"Roberto is thinking about Peter's sermon on Pentecost Day," Pedro replied. "We already spent some time with this topic in my Lesson 14. Briefly, this is what we learned. No one can make himself or herself repent or believe. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit produces both repentance and faith in a child's heart when it is baptized.

The three couples nodded in agreement with this. Pedro continued, "Always remember. Baptism is something God does for us! The Holy Spirit works repentance in the infant. It is an unconscious repentance. The Holy Spirit also works faith in the infant, though it is an unconscious faith. That



*Through baptism, the Holy Spirit begins to dwell in a baby's heart!*

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

new faith in the infant grabs hold of the gospel promises of forgiveness and eternal life. This happens even though the infant is not aware of it! True repentance and saving faith are simply *gifts* children receive from God in baptism.”

“That sounds clear to me,” Max replied. “Thank you, Pastor. May I ask one more question? You know Roberto, the guy at work. He always says another thing to me. He says that baptizing babies is just a Roman Catholic ritual.”

“I’ve heard that too!” Ron jumped into the discussion. “People say that infant baptism is basically a strange, ancient Catholic ritual. What can we say to that?” Pedro smiled and wrote the comment on the whiteboard.

**Infant baptism is basically a strange,  
ancient Catholic ritual.**

Pedro said, “Luther wrote, ‘Baptism is water used by God’s command and connected with God’s Word.’ Baptism brings us the gospel of God’s love. The gospel in baptism is one of the ways God gives us faith in his forgiving love. We don’t baptize infants merely because another church body does. The words and the example of the apostles teach us to baptize infants.”\*

“That was way before the time of the Catholic church we know today!” Ron reminded everyone.

Pedro nodded in agreement. We do what the Bible says. The Bible teaches us what to believe and tell others. We follow the Bible. Peter told the crowd on Pentecost that the promise of the Holy Spirit in baptism ‘is for you and your children.’ The Bible teaches us to baptize children, and so we do!



Just then, who should come walking in the door but Max's good friend, Roberto! "Sorry I'm so late! I had to work overtime at the factory; otherwise I would have been here a lot sooner," Roberto explained.

"I've been telling everyone here about the discussions that you and I have on infant baptism," Max replied. Then he took a minute to introduce his friend to the class. "Thank you so much, Roberto, for coming down here after work to join us. I know you want to know the truth."

Roberto smiled at Max's kind words and thanked everyone for their warm welcome. "Well, if I may speak, here's the thing," Roberto immediately began. "Our discussions on infant baptism seem to always come back to my main question. How can a baby believe in Jesus? I will never understand that."

"Thank you for your clear question," Pedro replied. "Allow me to write it on the whiteboard."

### **How can a baby or small child believe in Jesus?**

Pedro began, "The fact is, Roberto, none of us understand how a baby can have saving faith in Jesus. We all agree that it does not make sense. But since when do God's promises need to make sense in order to be true? God simply provides the wonderful gift of faith along with his gift of baptism in order to save children, who are born in sin. We don't understand it. We simply take God at his word. God clearly tells us, 'All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes'" (Galatians 3:27).

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

“Let’s be very clear,” Pedro continued. “What is the main reason many people reject infant baptism? They believe people need to *understand* the story of Jesus. They say that people need to “accept Jesus” before they are baptized. Also, many people believe a small child is not held responsible for his or her sins. But the Bible teaches otherwise. The Bible teaches that children are guilty of sin. And it says that through baptism, a child can have saving faith, that is, belief in our Savior Jesus. God puts faith into the child’s heart even before he or she is able to understand the story of Jesus and God’s plan of salvation.”

“Let me get this straight,” Roberto broke in. “You just said, ‘a baby can believe in Jesus even before he or she is able to understand the story of Jesus and God’s plan of salvation.’ That, Pastor, does not make sense!”

“Ah, but listen,” Pedro replied. “God tells us that ‘little ones’ or small children can believe in Jesus. Jesus himself said this in Matthew 18:6 and Mark 9:42. One day, when Jesus was speaking to his disciples about children, he said, ‘What if someone leads one of these little ones who believe in me to sin?’

Roberto found himself repeating the phrase out loud. “One of these little ones who believe in me...” He paused for a long moment and let the simple words sink in. Then, try as he might, Roberto couldn’t hold back a smile because he felt embarrassed. The passage was clear. Not all of the little ones would understand how Jesus saves them. Even so, they can believe and be saved!

Max’s friend took a deep breath. “Pastor, I stand corrected,” Roberto announced to the whole room. “You’re right. It does not make sense. It cannot be explained. But

there it is right in front of us. The words of Jesus are simple and plain, and Jesus does not lie. Little ones can believe in Jesus. It is simply a miracle of God!”

“Roberto that is a wonderful summary of what God’s Word teaches us.” Pedro said this with a huge smile. “Thank you, my friend. Allow me, class, to close with these final thoughts.

“Creating saving faith in a baby is a miracle. It is as much a miracle as creating life itself. Always remember, a baby is born with a living body. But its soul its spirit is dead before God. In baptism, God brings new life to the baby’s soul through the power of the Holy Spirit.

“The kingdom of God belongs only to those who believe. Jesus said, ‘God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.’\* He was talking about the little children who were brought to him. He meant that those little children were believers. Likewise, through the good news of God’s forgiveness in baptism God changes a lost child into a believer! Praise God for his loving, wonderful gift of baptism!”

### **Things to Remember:**

11. God causes a baptized baby to repent of \_\_\_\_\_ and receive \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus even though the baby is not \_\_\_\_\_ or aware of repenting and believing.
12. As baptized children grow and become older, God tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ them about Jesus so that their unconscious faith becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

13. Baptism is not merely a \_\_\_\_\_; it is commanded by God.
- a. holy act
  - b. gift of forgiveness
  - c. church ritual
14. We do not \_\_\_\_\_ how a little child can believe, but God tells us that he gives them \_\_\_\_\_ when they receive baptism. This is a \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on page 168)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Part 6, Lesson 24:**

What baptism means to you and your child

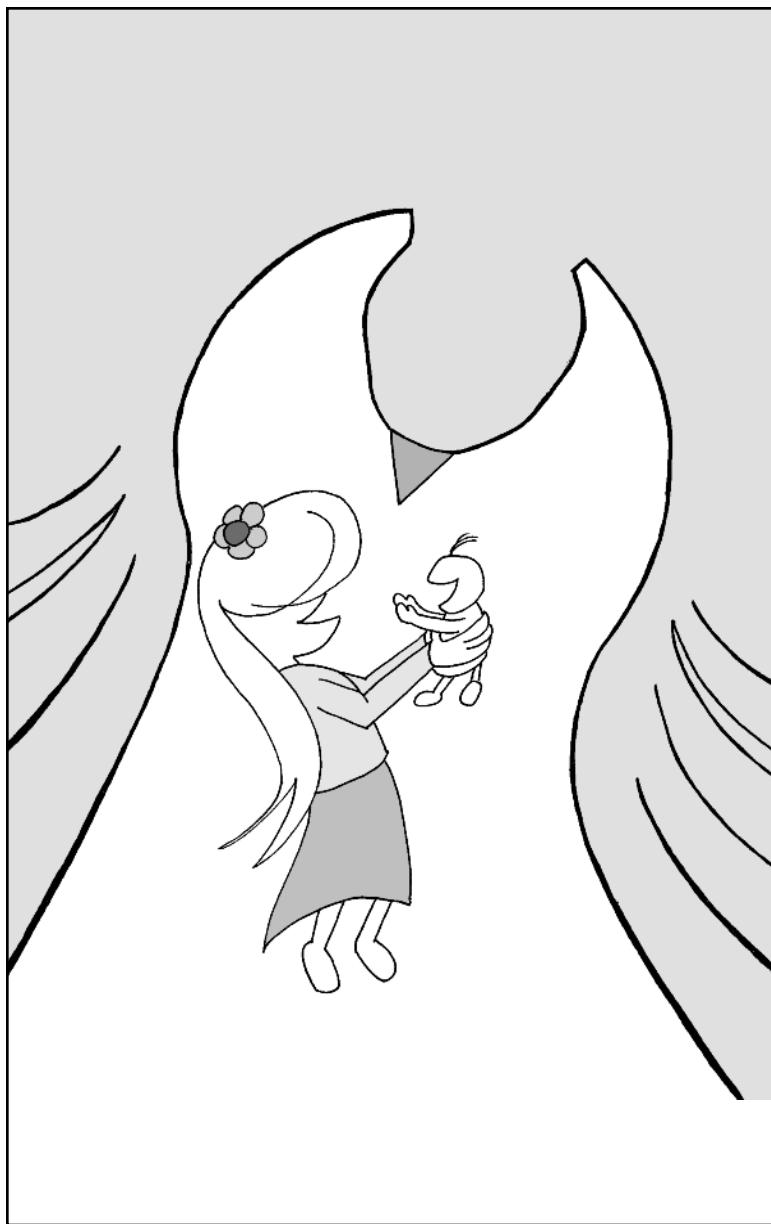
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The three couples returned to class the following Wednesday night. Now they were sure that their children should be baptized. Pastor Pedro had carefully answered many questions over the many weeks of classes. He began the final evening lesson.

“We have seen that God’s love in baptism creates saving faith in a child. And baptism transfers the child from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God. This evening, I want to share some final thoughts on what baptism means for a child.

“In various Bible verses, God uses words to create pictures of the love he has for a baptized child. Some of these pictures I’ve mentioned before. Tonight let’s not only discuss the pictures; let’s celebrate them! These Bible verses bring great comfort and joy. I will start with one of my favorite verses. All of you have heard it before. God tells us: ‘You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes’ (Galatians 3:26-27).

“It’s simply a wonderful picture!” Pedro smiled broadly. He pulled a book out of his bag. Here’s how one teacher explains this verse. The apostle Paul “says simply, ‘You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus.’ And what causes people to start ‘believing in Christ Jesus?’ Baptism is one way. In baptism, the gospel creates faith in our hearts. Paul explains, ‘All of you who were baptized into



*Because of God's gift of baptism, I know my baby is saved!*

Christ have put on Christ as if he were your clothes.””\*

“In baptism, your child too will wear a special robe. God dresses your child in the perfect obedience of Jesus,” Pedro declared joyously. God forgives all of your child’s sins. He welcomes your child into his arms.”

“I can see my baby, wrapped in a pure white blanket, being hugged in Jesus arms.” Betty couldn’t hold back. She had to share the wonderful picture that the Bible verse created in her mind.

“I see our little girl in a soft white dress smiling as God lifts her into his arms,” Jenette announced. All the couples were beaming. Visions of their children with Jesus danced in their heads.

“Have any of you ever visited an orphanage?” Pedro asked the three couples. No one had. “I used to go to an orphanage once a week to tell Bible stories,” he continued. A soft smile came to his face as he remembered the little children.

“The orphans knew me well. They were so excited every time I came to visit. As soon as I came in the iron gate, the children ran up. Everyone tried to grab my hand at once. My hands would be completely covered with little hands. Then the rest of the children would try to grab onto my forearms just to have something to hold. No one wanted to be left out! The children were desperate for attention. They wanted to touch an adult who loved them. The overworked director and his wife, with those dozens of orphans, rarely had individual time with each child. I was another adult who loved the children and could spend time with them.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

“Now imagine if this would happen. One day, after my Bible story class with the orphans, I take one little child aside. Let’s say it is a child with whom I have a very special bond, a special love. The child doesn’t have any friends at the orphanage. I take the child, lift her in my arms, and say to her, ‘I have great news for you. I will adopt you. You can come home with me. At my home, I will look after you every day. I will take care of your every need and love you as my own dear child. I promise you that you will never be alone. I will always be there for you. I will love you and care for you every day of your life.’ How do you think that child would feel?”

Max replied at once. “The little girl would be so surprised she would probably faint right in your arms. And when she woke up again, and you said it was all true, she would probably faint again!” The couples laughed at Max’s imagined scene, yet everyone agreed: The little girl would not believe her ears!

Pedro spoke up. “What happens to a child through baptism? God brings good news to it. He reaches out to a child who was dead to him, lost, and helpless. He gives it new life and adopts that child to be his own. God wants it to live under his almighty care and protection forever! Hear the words of God: ‘You received the Holy Spirit who makes you God’s child.’ God gave you faith in Jesus. Now he lives in you. ‘By the Spirit’s power we call God “Abba.” Abba means Father’ (Romans 8:15). The power of the Holy Spirit changes the child. It doesn’t need to be afraid of God. Now God has become the child’s heavenly Father. He loves it as his very own child.

“This verse is wonderful,” Pedro went on. His voice filled with emotion. “The Ruler of the Universe declares that



every believer, including every baptized child, is his very own son or daughter! Your child's baptism certificate is his or her adoption paper! Almighty God pours out his love and attention on each baptized child. God loves it more than an excited new parent can love an only child. Would you believe, God even sings over your child?"

"Let's not go overboard." Ron held up his hand to stop Pedro.

"Let's read together Zephaniah 3:17, Pedro replied:

"He [God] will take great delight in you,  
The quietness of his love will calm you down.  
He will sing with joy because of you."

"It's very clear. God wants a caring, lively, growing, deeper-all-the-time connection with each of his children," Pedro continued. "Look again at the second half of Romans 8:15: 'By the Spirit's power we call God "*Abba*." *Abba* means Father.' The Holy Spirit tells us to go to Almighty God at any time. Trust God the way a child trusts a loving father! The Holy Spirit even goes with us. He helps us bring our needs and questions to our Heavenly Father!

Pedro spoke with quiet strength to the three couples. "A child receives membership in the family of God through baptism. This happens when God creates saving faith in a child's heart. Listen to what God says once more. Through baptism God adopts a child. He treats that child as his very own son or daughter. He invites that child to address him as 'Father.' God invites all of us believers to come to him as our Father. It's almost too wonderful to imagine!"

Pedro gave the couples a moment to wonder at it all. Then he continued. "Let me add one final detail about what it

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

means to say “God adopts you,” and “You become his child.” Paul writes, ‘...because you are his children, God ‘has made you also an heir” (Galatians 4:7 NIV). Pedro let the beautiful words sink in for a moment. Then he began to explain the simple verse. “When God adopts a child into his family through baptism, the child becomes an heir. God will give it the greatest inheritance we could ever imagine. He or she inherits eternal life in heaven.

“Paul loved to call all believers ‘heirs’. The word “heirs” immediately reminded them of the heavenly home that waits for us. Paul uses the word ‘heirs’ in four of the letters God caused him to write! Parents, your baby becomes an heir to eternal life in heaven. This happens the moment the Spirit produces saving faith in your child at baptism.”

Pedro’s voice suddenly turned quiet. “What if your child became very sick or was hurt in a bad accident and your baptized child died? What would give you hope during that very sad time? Baptism. You would know that your baptized child’s soul went directly to heaven. God has promised it in his Word.”

The three couples were surprised that Pedro had suddenly brought up the subject of death. Luc wanted to be sure that he understood. “Are you saying, Pastor, that if our baby somehow died, we would know our baby was in heaven? And we would know this because the baby was baptized?”

“That is exactly right. You have God’s promise on it,” Pedro firmly replied. “Jesus himself said so: ‘Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved’” (Mark 16:16).

Everyone understood the precious promise of Jesus. Pedro added his final thoughts.

“Remember, the devil cannot steal your child’s faith. Your baby lives under God’s constant care and protection. But do not forget what I have often said. As your child grows, the unconscious faith God created in your child at baptism needs to change along with the child. It needs to become a conscious faith. Always remember what Paul wrote: ‘Train them [children] and teach them the ways of the Lord as you raise them’ (Ephesians 6:4).

“As your child grows, he or she will take a place alongside us. All of us are in an ongoing war. Our faith in God is under attack. The enemy is the devil and the demons. The evil foe never stops his temptations and attacks. Your child will need to stay in the Word and in prayer in order to fight as a prince or princess of the kingdom of God! We, the members of the church, have work to do. God wants us to help and encourage our children to grow in their faith.”

Pedro set his Bible down. He whispered a thank you to God for the three wonderful couples who had listened so carefully all evening. He offered a brief summary. “Imagine your baptized child. He or she wears a beautiful robe of Christ’s righteousness. God himself adopts your child. And it is an heir to Heaven eternal! One day, our earthly journey will end. Then, the Savior who made us his princes and princesses will come for us and take us to Paradise!”

And so, Pedro concluded his final class on infant baptism. The gathered couples broke into applause. This was not so much for Pastor Pedro - though he was a wonderful teacher. It was for their wonderful God who promises so much to his children. He gives us freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil. That power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is at work in baptism!

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

### **Things to Remember:**

15. In baptism, God clothes a child with \_\_\_\_\_.  
He wraps it in the holy life of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. In baptism, God \_\_\_\_\_ a child into his family.
  - a. invites
  - b. adopts
17. In baptism, God makes a child an \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life in heaven.
18. Because \_\_\_\_\_ in God is under attack by Satan, baptized children must \_\_\_\_\_ stronger in faith through reading God's \_\_\_\_\_ and through prayer.

(Check your answers on page 168)

**REVIEW - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**  
**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 6**

---

Scripture answers all of the objections that people have about infant baptism. God leads us to rejoice in the many blessings that he gives to baptized children and adults. And with God's help, we fight against the devil's constant attempts to rob us of these blessings.

**Things to remember-Answers-Part 6**

1. sinful; 2. accountable, die; 3. baptism; 4. dedicate; 5. families; 6. just; 7. baptism; 8. many blessings; 9. faith, save, baptism; 10. baptizing, teaching; 11. sin, faith, conscious; 12. teach, conscious; 13. church ritual; 14. understand, faith, miracle 15. forgiveness, Jesus; 16. adopts; 17. heir; 18. faith, grow, word.

**TEST - Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

**Part 6**

*Please review "Things to remember."*

---

1. The Bible tells us that children are \_\_\_\_\_ when they are born.
  - a. holy
  - b. not guilty
  - c. sinful
2. The Bible says that all people are \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins. We know that children are accountable because they can \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Children receive God's forgiveness in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God does not tell us to \_\_\_\_\_ children to him.
  - a. bring
  - b. dedicate
5. The Bible tells us that entire \_\_\_\_\_ received baptism.
6. God is \_\_\_\_\_ when he judges all people.
7. God commands us to bring children to him through \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. baptism
  - b. dedication

8. Unbaptized children receive \_\_\_\_\_ by living in a Christian home.
- a. many blessings
  - b. salvation
  - c. eternal life
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their mother or father separates them from many harmful things, but the faith of their parents cannot \_\_\_\_\_ unbaptized children. Only \_\_\_\_\_ can save them.
10. Jesus wants us to make disciples by \_\_\_\_\_ children and by \_\_\_\_\_ adults.
11. God causes a baptized baby to repent of \_\_\_\_\_ and receive \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus even though the baby is not \_\_\_\_\_ or aware of repenting and believing.
12. As baptized children grow and become older, God tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ them about Jesus so that their unconscious faith becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
13. Baptism is not merely a \_\_\_\_\_; it is commanded by God.
- a. holy act
  - b. gift of forgiveness
  - c. church ritual
14. We do not \_\_\_\_\_ how a little child can believe, but God tells us that he gives them \_\_\_\_\_ when they receive baptism. This is a \_\_\_\_\_.
15. In baptism, God clothes a child with \_\_\_\_\_. He wraps it in the holy life of \_\_\_\_\_.

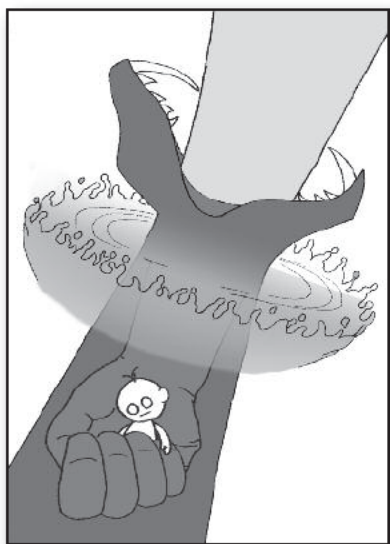
### **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

16. In baptism, God \_\_\_\_\_ a child into his family.  
a. invites  
b. adopts
17. In baptism, God makes a child an \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life in heaven.
18. Because \_\_\_\_\_ in God is under attack by Satan, baptized children must \_\_\_\_\_ stronger in faith through reading God's \_\_\_\_\_ and through prayer.

(Check your answers on page 178)







## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

SUMMARY

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ANSWERS TO CHAPTER TESTS

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FINAL TEST

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

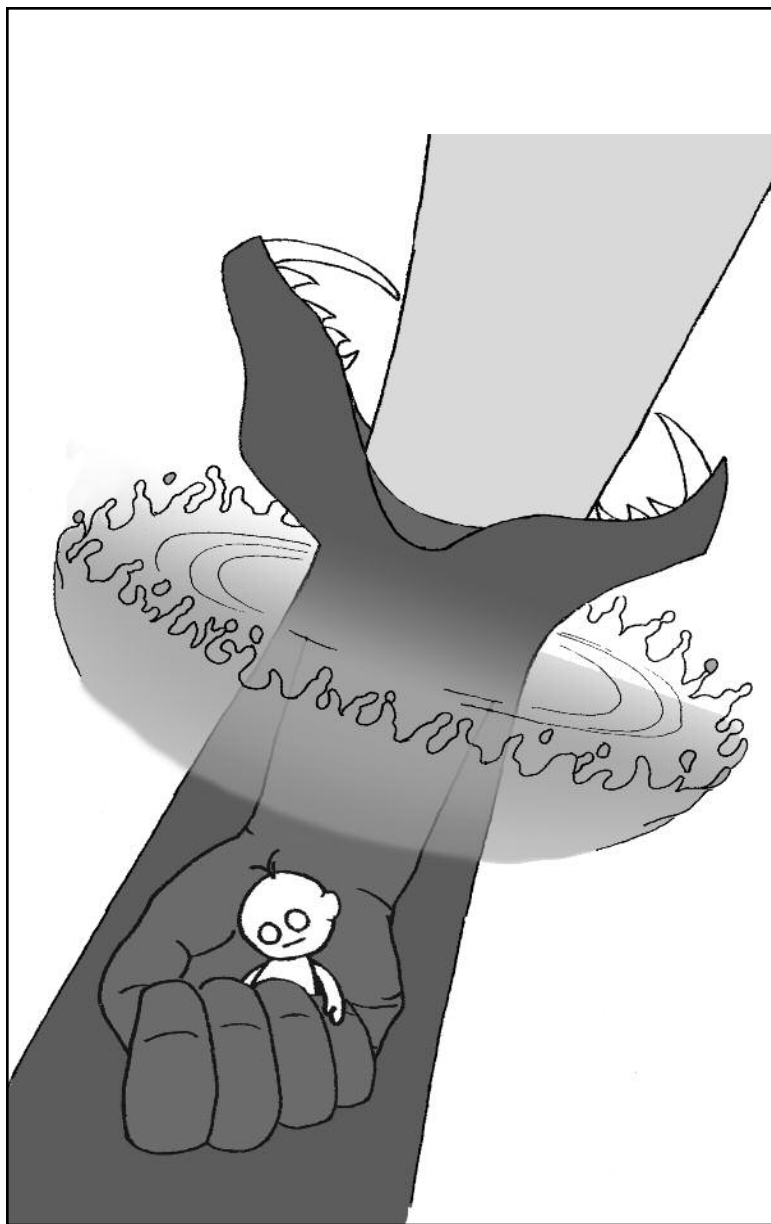
### **Summary:**

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We have seen that children enter this world sinful and in need of a Savior. Every child is sinful at birth. Sin is part of us because our first parents, Adam and Eve, brought sin into the world. But God promises parents that he will take their child from the kingdom of Satan and bring it into the kingdom of God through baptism. The Holy Spirit will use the word of God to give a child faith in Jesus during baptism. Therefore, a baptized child receives the gift of forgiveness and the salvation that Jesus won on the cross. The devil has no claim on a baptized baby's soul. Jesus has paid for all of the baby's sins!

Why wouldn't anyone want to use God's great gift of baptism? It brings his means of grace, his message of salvation. It saves all of us, including our children. How could Christian parents walk away from God's invitation to wash their baby clean of sin and clothe that baby in Jesus' righteousness? Why would anyone say "No" to that? Baptism is God's powerful way to remove the devil's claim on a child!

"People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit," Jesus told Nicodemus (John 3:6). We must be born again. Don't hold back, dear parents. You have been blessed with the wonderful gift of a child. Don't keep your child from the power of the Holy Spirit. He can create saving faith in your dear baby's heart! Bring the child to baptism. Bring the blessing of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection to your child. On the day of your baby's baptism, you will know for sure that God has rescued your child from the belly of the beast! Your child belongs to God!



*Rescued from the belly of the beast.*

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

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### **Writers referenced in this book**

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#### **Lesson 3:** Born with a sinful nature

- \* An Explanation to Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Mankato, Minnesota: Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 2001, p. 84.

#### **Lesson 11:** Baptism as the circumcision Christ provides

- \* Franzmann: Werner H. Franzmann, Bible History Commentary – Old Testament. Milwaukee: WELS Board for Parish Education, 1980, p. 116.
- \* Genesis 17: 9-14, Leviticus 12:3.

#### **Lesson 16:** The testimony of Irenaeus

- \* Irenaeus, Against Heresies II:4, the Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1, p. 391.
- \* Schmeling: Gaylin R. Schmeling, The People's Bible Teaching – Baptism: My Adoption into God's Family. Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1999, p. 128.

#### **Lesson 17:** The testimony of Hippolytus

- \* Jeremias: Joachim Jeremias, Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1960, p. 75, quoting Hippolytus (21.3f.).
- \* Jeremias, p. 75.

#### **Lesson 18:** The testimony of Origen

- \* Origen, commentary on Romans 5:9, EH 249.
- \* Jeremias, p. 65.
- \* Jeremias, p. 70.

#### **Lesson 19:** The little girl mummy

- \* Jeremias, p. 66.
- \* Jeremias, p. 67.
- \* Jeremias, p. 66-67.
- \* Jeremias, p. 67.
- \* Jeremias, p. 67-68.

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

### **Lesson 20:** Grandma speaks from the graveyard

- \* Jeremias, p. 41.
- \* Jeremias, p. 41-42.
- \* Jeremias, p. 42.
- \* Jeremias, p. 78-80.

### **Lesson 21:** Common objections to infant baptism, Part 1

- \* Schmeling, p. 75
- \* Dass: A. Andrew Dass, Baptized Into God's Family – The Doctrine of Infant Baptism for Today. Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991, p. 37. Quoting Hoffman, The Baptism and Faith of Children, A Living Legacy. Eds Kurt E. Marquart, John R. Stephenson, and Bjarne. W. Teigen, Fort Wayne: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 1985, p. 85.
- \* Amalekites: 1 Samuel 15:3, Babylonians: Isaiah 13:16, Ninevites: Nahum 3:10, Judah: Jeremiah 18:21, Israel: Hosea 2:4.
- \* Pastor Norb Meier, personal communication, January 15, 2011.
- \* Kelm: Paul E. Kelm, I Would Like To Know. Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1991, p. 7.
- \* Schmeling, p. 76.

### **Lesson 22:** Common objections to infant baptism, Part 2

- \* Toppe, Carleton A. Toppe, The People's Bible—1 Corinthians, Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1987, page 67.
- \* 2 Corinthians 5:10, Galatians 3:26-27, Ephesians 2:8
- \* Pastor Anthony Schultz, personal communication, February 2011.
- \* Pastor Anthony Schultz, personal communication, February 2011.
- \* Dass, p. 43.

### **Lesson 23:** Common objections to infant baptism, Part 3

- \* Pastor Anthony Schultz, personal communication, February 2011.
- \* Mark 10:14, Luke 8:13.

### **Lesson 24:** What baptism means to you and your child

- \* Panning: Armin J. Panning, Bible Teachings Series, Level 2, Freedom in Christ. Appleton, Wisconsin: Multi-Language Publications, 2013, p. 52.

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

**A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children**

### **Answers to Section Tests**

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#### **Test for Part 1: (pages 27-28)**

1. Angels; 2. devil, hell; 3. babies; 4. Eve; 5. death; 6. people; 7. babies; 8. condemned; 9. devil; 10. baptism; 11. water; 12. forgiveness, family; 13. death, life; 14. God, devil.

#### **Test for Part 2: (pages 55-56)**

1. sin; 2. harm; 3. devil; 4. life; 5. new person; 6. forgiven; 7. Holy Spirit; 8. Father, Son; 9. forgiveness, death, devil, life.

#### **Test for Part 3: (pages 75-76)**

1. pictures; 2. Moses, Red Sea; 3. baptism; 4. blood, forgiven; 5. blood; 6. animal; 7. forgiveness; 8. baptism; 9. baptism, forgiveness; 10. circumcision; 11. birth; 12. baptism; 13. children.

#### **Test for Part 4: (pages 104-105)**

1. nations; 2. everyone; 3. children; 4. baptized; 5. families; 6. children; 7. baptized; 8. children; 9. all; 10. children; 11. faith; 12. members.

#### **Test for Part 5: (pages 132-133)**

1. apostles; 2. fathers; 3. John; 4. infants; 5. father; 6. infants; 7. infants; 8. baptism; 9. apostles; 10. custom; 11. child; 12. cross; 13. baptism; 14. believer; 15. faith, baptism.

#### **Test for Part 6: (pages 169-171)**

1. sinful; 2. accountable, die; 3. baptism; 4. dedicate; 5. families; 6. just; 7. baptism; 8. many blessings; 9. faith, save, baptism; 10. baptizing, teaching; 11. sin, faith, conscious; 12. teach, conscious; 13. church ritual; 14. understand, faith, miracle; 15. forgiveness, Jesus; 16. adopts; 17. heir; 18. faith, grow, word.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:

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### Glossary

---

**Accountability:** to have to answer for something

**Accountable:** to have to answer for

**Almighty:** all powerful

**Amazing:** surprising, wonderful

**Applied:** put on

**Automatically:** routinely

**Aware:** mindful, knows about

**Baptize:** apply water in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit for the forgiveness of sins

**Bereans:** people who lived in the city of Berea

**Blessings:** gifts that we do not deserve

**Cast:** thrown

**Catechism:** a book that teaches through questions and answers

**Certificate:** official paper, a record of something

**Coffin:** box in which a dead body is placed

**Command:** order, tell someone what to do

**Condemned:** sentenced, for example, to hell

**Confusion:** being mixed up

**Connected:** joined, related

**Conscious:** aware, can sense something

**Context:** setting

**Corruption:** sinful condition

**Crafty:** sneaky, sly, tricky

**Created:** made out of nothing



**Creation:** making out of nothing

**Custom:** practice

**Decision:** choice

**Dedicated:** committed, devoted

**Dedication ceremony:** a service or ritual in which a child is committed to God

**Deliverance:** freedom

**Descendent:** person born from, including grandchildren, great-grandchildren and so on

**Designated:** chosen, selected

**Detail:** point

**Devil:** the evil one

**Discussion:** talk

**Dramatically:** acting like an actor in a movie or play

**Embarrassed:** uncomfortable

**Evidence:** a sign or signs that show something happened

**Exclaimed:** said suddenly and loudly

**Expert:** a person who knows much about something

**Flock:** group of people in a church

**Foreskin:** loose layer of skin

**Forgiveness:** pardon, mercy, taking away sin

**Gasped:** spoke in a way that showed surprise

**Grabbed:** took

**Grace:** love that is not earned

**Guilt:** fault, blame

**Household:** everyone that lives in one house, a family

**Imagine:** picture, see in your mind

**Inclined:** wanting to do something

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast**

**Increasing:** growing

**Inherit:** get, receive

**Israelites:** the nation of Israel, the people chosen by God from whom  
the Savior Jesus Christ would be born

**Liar:** someone who lies, tells false stories

**Mummy:** a dead body

**Mysterious:** something that cannot be explained

**New Testament:** the part of the Bible written after Jesus Christ was  
born

**Objections:** doubts

**Old Testament:** the part of the Bible written before Jesus Christ was  
born

**Original:** first, new

**Original sin:** sin that a child receives from its parents, born sinful

**Orphanage:** a place that cares for orphans

**Orphans:** children who do not have parents

**Pastor:** the spiritual leader of a Christian church

**Physical:** bodily, relates to the body

**Plagues:** sickness and other bad things that kill or hurt people

**Pleased:** happy

**Professor:** teacher

**Punishment:** suffering because of sin

**Referenced:** mentioned, quoted

**Relationship:** bond, link, connection

**Repent:** turn away from sin

**Repentance:** turning away from sin

**Rescue:** save

**Responsible:** to have to answer for

**Righteousness:** obedience

**Ritual:** ceremony, religious act

**Shocked:** surprised

**Sin:** disobey

**Sinful:** full of sin

**Sinner:** someone who disobeys God

**Slight:** little

**Spiritual:** relates to the soul, which God gave to man and woman when  
he gave them the breath of life

**Spouse:** husband or wife

**Temptation:** lure, invitation to do something bad

**Testimony:** a report, like one given by a witness at a trial

**Triune:** God is three persons in one God

**Unconscious:** not aware, cannot sense something

**Understanding:** to get what something means

**Uneasy:** troubled

**Witchcraft:** the work done by a wizard or witch to lead people to  
believe in a false god

**Wizard:** a person who does magic to lead people to believe in a false  
god

**Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

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**Pronunciation guide**

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Apronianus (ah-pro-nee-AH-nus)

Cappadocia (kap-pah-DOH-sha)

Florentius (flor-EN-tee-us)

Hippolytus (hip-POL-ee-tus)

Irenaeus (ear-uh-NAY-us)

Jeremias (jer-a-MY-us)

Leonides (lee-ON-ee-des)

Origen (OAR-eh-jen)

Osiris (oh-SĪ-res)

Polycarp (PUH-lee-karp)

## **Rescued from the Belly of the Beast:**

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### **Final Test**

---

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the section tests. Then complete the final test without looking at the book. When you have finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book or mail the test to the place listed on the back cover of this book.

Words needed to complete each question are listed at the end of the test.

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

1. God's creation was very good until some of the \_\_\_\_\_ turned against God.
2. The evil angels, led by the \_\_\_\_\_, wanted Adam and Eve to join them in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The devil is the enemy of all people, including tiny \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Because Adam and Eve sinned, they brought sin and death to all \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Even tiny \_\_\_\_\_ are sinful and dead before God from the time their life begins.
6. Because of their sin, babies are \_\_\_\_\_ and deserve to be sent to hell.
7. Babies need to receive freedom from sin, death, and the power of the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Even babies can receive this freedom through God's gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Baptism is \_\_\_\_\_ put on a person together with God's name and promises.
10. Baptism gives the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins and membership in God's \_\_\_\_\_.
11. In baptism, God brings a baby from \_\_\_\_\_ before God and gives them \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ begins to live in a baptized baby, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is driven away.
13. In baptism, the power of \_\_\_\_\_ is nailed to the cross with Jesus.
14. Sin's power to \_\_\_\_\_ a baptized person is dead and buried.

15. God's power in baptism gives a baby new \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
16. A baptized child still is sinful, but it also is a \_\_\_\_\_.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ begins to live in a baptized baby, giving it faith in Jesus, driving away the devil, and protecting its soul.
18. The blessings of baptism include the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins, freedom from the power of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the gift of eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.
19. The Old Testament of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ the power of baptism.
20. God used \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to save the children of Israel from death.
21. Today, God saves both children and adults through Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Moses sprinkled the blood of a sacrifice on both adults and children to give them \_\_\_\_\_.
23. The blood of Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ its power to forgive sin.
24. We sprinkle the water of \_\_\_\_\_ on adults and children to provide \_\_\_\_\_.
25. God made Abraham sure of his salvation through the act of \_\_\_\_\_.
26. In Old Testament times, boys received circumcision eight days after their \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The Bible calls \_\_\_\_\_ "a circumcision that Christ did to you."

## Rescued from the Belly of the Beast

28. God wants us to give baptism to \_\_\_\_\_ as well as to adults.
29. Jesus has said that we must "...Go and make disciples of all \_\_\_\_\_. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
30. When the Bible uses the word "nation" to describe a group of people, it means \_\_\_\_\_, adults and children.
31. Jesus wants us to baptize \_\_\_\_\_ as well as adults.
32. Paul baptized the \_\_\_\_\_ of Lydia, of the jailer at Philippi, of Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and of Stephanus. These baptized families would have included \_\_\_\_\_.
33. Peter said, "The promise is for you and your \_\_\_\_\_. " Peter wanted to baptize children too.
34. Through baptism, children become \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, Christ's body.
35. The \_\_\_\_\_ trained men to lead the church after they were gone.
36. The name history has given to these new church leaders is the "church \_\_\_\_\_."
37. The church fathers: Iranaeus, Hippolytus, and Origen wrote that the church was baptizing \_\_\_\_\_ as well as adults.
38. When we look at burial places of children who died at the time of the church fathers, we see details showing that the children received \_\_\_\_\_.



39. The Bible says that all people are \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins.  
We know that children are accountable because they  
can \_\_\_\_\_.
40. God does not tell us to \_\_\_\_\_ children to him.
41. God is \_\_\_\_\_ when he judges all people.
42. Unbaptized children receive \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ by living in a Christian home.
43. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their mother or father separates  
children from many harmful things, but the faith of  
their parents cannot \_\_\_\_\_ unbaptized children.  
Only \_\_\_\_\_ can save them.
44. God causes a baptized baby to repent of \_\_\_\_\_  
and receive \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus. This \_\_\_\_\_  
happens even though the baby is not \_\_\_\_\_ or  
aware of repenting and believing.
45. As baptized children grow and become older, God tells  
us to \_\_\_\_\_ them about Jesus so that their  
unconscious faith becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
46. Baptism is not merely a \_\_\_\_\_;  
it is commanded by God.
47. In baptism, God clothes a child with \_\_\_\_\_. He  
wraps it in the holy life of \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_  
the child into his family. And he makes the child an  
\_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life in heaven.
48. Because \_\_\_\_\_ in God is under attack by Satan,  
baptized children must \_\_\_\_\_ stronger in faith  
through reading God's \_\_\_\_\_ and through prayer.

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A self-study course about the biblical call to baptize children

**Answers needed to complete the final test**

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accountable	devil
adopts	devil
angels	devil
apostles	devil
babies	die
babies	everyone
baptism	faith
baptism	faith
baptism	faith
baptism	families
baptism	family
baptism	fathers
baptism	forgiveness
birth	forgiveness
children	forgiveness
children	forgiveness
children	forgiveness
children	God
church ritual	grow
circumcision	harm
condemned	heir
conscious	hell
conscious	Holy Spirit
death	infants
death	Jesus
dedicate	just

life  
life  
life  
many blessings  
members  
miracle  
Moses  
nations  
new person  
people  
pictures  
Red Sea  
save  
sin  
sin  
teach  
water  
word

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Copyright ©2014 WELS-BWM  
MLP Catalog Number – 385273  
ISBN 1-931891-80-6

ISBN 978-1-931891-80-6

