



The Church that  
Children Built

## September Sunday School

Usually our curriculum rotates between Scripture, Prayer & Living Our Faith. This year would be a Living our Faith year. The focus is on the promises in the Baptismal Covenant.

### The Baptismal Covenant

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching & fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil and whenever you fall into sin repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

*That will break down into the following focuses:*

Staying connected with God

Saying "I'm sorry" and standing up for what's right

Sharing your faith

Serving others

Making the world a better place

### September: Staying Connected With God

Story of the Baptism of Jesus: Mark 1:9-11

John the Baptist was a prophet. He was teaching in the wilderness outside of Jerusalem. A big part of John's teaching was that people needed to repent and return to the ways of God. As a symbol of that turning back to God, John took them into the Jordan River and poured water over their heads. This was called baptism. Around the time of John and Jesus there were several prophets who included this practice. They were all called baptists or baptizers.

The Gospel of Mark tells the story of Jesus' baptism.

9 About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. 11 And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Very early in the history of Christianity the church took the practice of baptism and turned it into the way that people became part of the Christian community. And that is what it still is today. Different types of churches do baptism a little differently, but what they all have in common is using water to symbolize a fresh start and that the ceremony marks the entrance into the family of God.

Do you remember seeing a Baptism at our church or at any other church? What do you remember about it?

Before someone is baptized they (or their parents and godparents if they are too young to speak for themselves) make promises. The first set of promises come from the Apostles' Creed and are about what we believe about God.

The second set of promises are about living in the way that Jesus taught us to. There are five promises in the second part of what we call the Baptismal Covenant.

These promises will be the main part of what we will be studying in Sunday School this year.

Each of the promises is in the form of a question, the answer to each of them is “I will with God’s help.” our answer reminds us that we can’t live in the way that Jesus teaches us without the help of God. Here are the questions:

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching & fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil and whenever you fall into sin repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

This month we are looking at the first promise:

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

That basically means, you stay connected with God and join in praying together. That is what Jesus’ first followers, the apostles did, and what Jesus asks all of us to do too.

Prayer is basically talking to God. We start by saying hello to God. Then we ask for what we want or say thank you for what we are grateful for, or both. Then we say goodbye, and usually end with Amen.

Here is an example:

Almighty God, (*this is saying hello*) bless this food to our use and us to thy service and make us ever mindful of and responsive to the needs of others (*this is asking for what we want*) through Christ, Our Lord. Amen. (*this is saying goodbye*)

#### Discussion/Thought Questions:

- What are some prayers that you know? What do those prayers say to or ask of God?
- What are some things that you remember praying for?
- Who are some of the people that you are praying for right now?

#### Questions for older kids

- *One of the functions of prayer is to build a relationship with God. If you thought about God like one of your friends and your prayer as conversation with him, what kind of things would be a part of that conversation?*
- *One of the things that is said about prayer, is that as we draw closer to God, we also draw closer to each other. What do you think about that? Have you experienced that in your life?*

There are three pieces of special paper in the bag. Each week take some time and think about what you want to pray for. Write a prayer on the special paper and say it each day of the week. You might think about making sure that at least one of the prayers is about things you are thankful for.

Mail your prayers to church (or drop them off at church) so that we have them by September 23. The address of the church is 4275 Harris Hill Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221.

We will put the prayers up in the church for Sunday the 27th so everyone can see them.  
We will post a video of the prayers too.