

Cleansed!

Main idea: The purpose of this lesson is for us to know that God, through baptism, cleanses us of all our moral failures, and justifies us through the blood of Jesus the Christ.

Preparation: Before leading this devotional, as a family, locate and gather as many cleaning products around the house in 60sec.

Ask: After all the cleaning products have been gathered, ask, "What are some things that need to be washed regularly? Why?" What are some things you hate washing?

Message: The Bible contains something called scientific foreknowledge. Scientific foreknowledge means the Bible can accurately show scientific knowledge that was previously unknown before human discovery. **Numbers 19:1-13**, provides a recipe and instructions for the use of the water of purification. Was this nothing more than a strict ritual for God's people to obey, or was it something more? The ingredients include water, ashes of a burnt animal, cedarwood, hyssop, and scarlet wool. Today, we have discovered the benefits of each ingredient. When water is poured through ashes, lye soap is created. When lye is diluted, it makes a great cleaning agent. Hyssop contains the antiseptic thymol (which can be found in some mouthwashes today). Hyssop leaves contain oil that can be used as a disinfectant or antiviral remedy. Cedarwood is a minor skin irritant that encourages scrubbing when applied to the skin, and the scarlet wool would have been added for deep cleaning of hard to reach areas (similar to grainy Lava soap). In conclusion, God provided the Israelites with the perfect natural antibacterial soap recipe.

Ask: Why do you think God gave the children of Israel the perfect antibacterial soap?

Answer: It was used for two primary purposes. One, to clean people and clothes after coming into contact with unclean things, such as dead bodies, blood, bones, or graves. Two, washing in the water of purification was a symbol of God cleansing them of their sins (**Numbers 1:9**).

Not only does God want us to take care of our bodies by taking showers and baths, He is also concerned about us being clean spiritually. Therefore, God desires all who believe that Jesus is Lord to be baptized; baptism put us in contact with Jesus' blood (**Ephesians 1:7; Revelations 7:4**). Baptism is like our water of purification; it is necessary for the forgiveness (or cleansing) of our sins.

- **Acts 2:38**, Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 22:16** And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

What if we sin after baptism? Do we need to get baptized again? No at all. Jesus' blood is so powerful if we continue in a relationship with God and His church (other believers), Jesus' blood keeps cleaning us over and over (**1 John 1:7**).

Remember: Baptism is not the end of our faith but the beginning. In fact, following baptism God expects us to grow and mature. Peter writes (**1 Pet. 1:5-8**), For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities **in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Click [here](#) for family video)