

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Why do *you* think Presbyterians baptize children? [5]
2. Read Genesis 17:1-14. How do you define a covenant? [6]
3. Were the promises made to Abraham given *only* to Israel? [7]
4. What did the sign of this covenant represent? [8-9]
5. Read Genesis 17:11-13. Who all was to receive this sign? [9]
6. Does the receiving of this sign guarantee eternal salvation? [9-10]
7. What is required for there to be covenant relationship in a family? [9]
8. Since only males receive the sign, are women excluded? [10]
9. Why place this sign on someone who has not yet come to faith? [10-11]
10. Does the covenant continue in the New Testament? [12-13]

11. Where in Scripture do you find the change in the sign of the covenant? [13-16]

12. Can you think of any place in the New Testament where it specifically says infants were baptized? [15-20]

13. If baptism is by immersion, doesn't that mean we should *not* baptize infants? [20-24]

14. Does baptizing our children guarantee God will *later* bring them to saving faith? [24-26]

15. If the child doesn't automatically get saved at baptism, and there is no guarantee the child will come to faith later, then what benefit is there in baptizing them? [26-29]

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

1. Do you still have children at home? Are they baptized? If not, does this study help you understand the importance of obeying God in this practice? If so, talk with your pastor right away.
2. If your children are already baptized, are you following the vows you took at that time? Are you raising your child in the ways of the Lord? If not, what needs to change in your life and practice? And, when will you start to implement these changes? Don't put it off. If you do, you know Satan will do everything he can to keep you from keeping this promise.

For Further Study

Children of the Promise: The Biblical Case for Infant Baptism by Robert R. Booth. P&R, 1995.
The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism by Gregg Strawbridge. P&R, 2003.
Baptism by Francis A. Schaeffer. CEP, 2004.

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