

# Unit 5: How does God interact with me and how do I interact with God?

- Ultimate lessons about Baptism:
  - The power of baptism is in God's Word.
  - The promise of baptism is that He brings us out of death and into life.
- The Means of Grace (the answer to our Unit 5 questions!)
  - *Grace: God's riches at Christ's expense.* It's a free gift! We didn't earn it. We couldn't. Christ earned it—He paid the expense.
  - God wraps His grace like a gift for delivery in the means of grace.
  - When we talk about the means of grace, we are talking about the Word and the Sacraments.
- The Sacraments
  - *Sacrament:* A holy or sacred act.
  - **Three key traits** of a sacrament:
    - **Instituted by** the command of **Christ** (Matthew 28:18-20)
    - In which Christ joins His word of promise to a **visible element** (water)
    - By which He offers and bestows the **forgiveness of sins** He has earned for us by His suffering death and resurrection (in other words, **a Means of Grace!**)
  - We recognize two in the scriptures: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- I know God forgives and offers all of these promises, but how do I know that the grace God offers has been given to me? *The means of grace* are concrete ways God distributes His grace. Want more on grace? Ephesians 2:8-10.
- Catechism's definition of baptism: *Baptism is not just plain water but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.*
- Other lessons on baptism in this unit:
  - Baptism washes the slate clean.
  - The word baptized literally means *to wash*.
  - Changes the head of our family tree from Adam to Jesus.
    - The Old Adam is referring to our sinful nature. The *New Adam* is Jesus. Through Adam we die, in Jesus we live.
  - As Christians we are simultaneously sinners and saints.
    - Why? Because of the Old Adam and New Adam are at work.
  - Baptism brings us into the family of God—He calls us His child (Galatians 3:19-4:7). If we're all brothers and sisters, think of how we ought to think of and teach each other.
  - FAQs about baptism included.
  - Hymn, *God's Own Child I Gladly Say It*
- The importance of remembering your baptism (Faith Habit for the Journey #4)! Ways to remember it:
  - Washing your hands
  - The sign of the cross
  - Celebrate your baptismal birthday
- What's confirmation all about? Confirming their *faith*. In other words, they're confirming their baptism (where faith has been concretely received).
- Good verses on baptism:
  - 1 Peter 3:21 ("Now saves us")
  - Romans 6 (the whole chapter is great!)
  - 1 Corinthians 15:22

**Keep the Conversation Going at Home: The Goal is for them to be able to Articulate Their Faith.**