

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
#15 - BAPTISM
CANNONBALL BAPTISM





Tears were running down their eyes. These weren't tears of sadness! They just watched a hilarious vine where a kid, eager to get baptized did a cannonball into the baptismal pool. The boy jumped up after his plunge and was all smiles. The pastor was soaking wet, initially looked agitated, but couldn't hold in his laughter. The congregation, unsure how to respond, let out a collective sigh. One older lady shrieked!

The pastor looked down at the boy, his hair and little body drenched and said, “Maybe this is what Jesus meant when He said we have to become like little children to enter the kingdom of God!” The congregation burst into laughter as the clip ended.

“My mom would kill me if I even thought to do something like that!” Jeniah said still chuckling at the audacious little boy. “I can imagine he must have gotten it when he got home.”

“Yeah me too! We would’ve laughed at the church but it would’ve been over as soon as I made it to the house. But it sure was funny!” Uriah replied. “I can only imagine what the little boy was thinking. And the pastor! He handled it so cool. I am not sure our pastor would have been so kind!”

“Why is that?” a voice responded behind them. It was Pastor Johnston. Jeniah and Uriah were so caught up in the video that they didn’t realize she was standing behind them watching the video too.

They tried to stutter their way to a response, but she stopped them before they gathered their words. “I think that was hilarious! And yes, pastors, this one included, have a sense of humor too. I’m not sure if I would’ve been as calm as that pastor, but I’m sure I would’ve found humor in it,” she said still chuckling at the video.

“So what about you two? Tell me about your baptism. When did you decide to be baptized?” She asked.

“I was baptized at summer camp. I was away from my parents and friends back home. I always knew that I wanted to do it without the pressure of people I know looking at me. At camp, each night I heard about the story of Jesus and how He died to save me... and one day He’s coming back to get me. I didn’t believe it at first, but by the end of the week, I knew I wanted to give my life to Him. I was baptized that weekend,” Uriah said.

“What’s the real purpose of getting baptized?” Jeniah asked

Pastor Johnston could see her young mind processing the discussion. She gradually began to unpack Jeniah’s question.

In this lesson we will tackle the process and purpose of Baptism.

1. Does that mean that someone can just get in the baptismal pool?” Jeniah asked. “Not quite...” Pastor Johnston replied. “One must be taught then baptized.”

- o Jesus said, “Go ye therefore and *Teach* all nations [Then] baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19.
- o “ ... *But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*” (Acts 8:12).

2. “Baptism,” Pastor Johnston said, “is a sign of belief in God and the fact that He forgives us of sin.”

- “*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...*” (Mark 16:16)
- “*... Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...*” (Acts 2:38)

3. “But why does it have to be so public? Can’t I commit to God by myself?” Jeniah asked.

- Baptism is an outward display of a personal decision. It lets the world know that you are making a decision to follow Jesus.

4. “So does that mean the cannonball was okay?” Uriah asked with a chuckle. “Not quite” Pastor Johnston said. “The boy did have the right enthusiasm, and the process.” “The right process??? How so?” Jeniah asked. “The Bible only supports baptism by immersion, where we are fully submerged under water and then come back up.”

- Baptism means “do dip in or under” for the Greek word *bapto*

5. “Oh ok. So this is like a “death and resurrection? I seem to remember hearing you speak about this” Jeniah said looking at Pastor Johnston. “Exactly! The text I used was Romans 6:3-4.”

- *“All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

6. “It is a death to an old way of life and the opportunity to start a new one with Jesus,” Pastor Johnston continued.

- Romans 6:11 - *“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

7. It is through confession of sin and baptism that we become a member of the family of God.

- *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” – 1 Corinthians 12:13*
- *“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day... [They were] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:41, 47.*

“So... One has to be taught, then they have to confess their sins and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, huh?” Jeniah said reflectively. “You know Pastor Johnston, I want to be a part of that family. Can I get baptized in the next baptism?”

“Why of course, she said giving Jeniah a huge hug. It would be my honor to baptize you. And I would like to have Uriah there with you. Would that be okay with you, Uriah?” “ Only if it’s a CANNONBALL BAPTISM!!!!” He shouted.