

Unit A

Amphibians

Truths discussed this week:

- Amphibians need soft skin to survive - the Lord needs us to have soft hearts
- Tadpoles turn into frogs we are “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”
- Tadpoles come out of the water ready for new lives as frogs - baptism
- Salamander needs for survival - we should live “by every word of God”

Extra preparation needed:

- There is an optional object lesson in Lesson 1. This object lesson requires that you leave a piece of play dough out for a day or two so it becomes hard. Make sure to take time to do that beforehand.

Enjoy your time in the Word!

Lesson 1

This week we started learning about amphibians. Today we learned how important their moist skin is. Can amphibians survive without moist skin? Today while we study about Jesus, we are going to learn about a part of us that needs to stay soft too.

Spending time in scripture

Ezekial 11:19

19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.

Discussion

Do you know what this verse of scripture is saying? In this verse the Lord says that He will take the stony heart out of His people and give them a heart of flesh. Our hearts aren't ever actually made of stones, so what is the Lord saying? What is a stony heart? A stony heart is a

hard heart. When we harden our hearts, we are unwilling to listen to God's words and corrections, and we are not willing to change, or we refuse to see that we might need to change. When we have a hard heart, we want to do what *we* want instead of what the Lord wants us to do.

Having a hard heart can also mean that we are not willing to forgive other people, or that we are often angry with others.

In this verse the Lord is trying to teach us about how He needs our hearts to be. He doesn't want our hearts to be hard and stony. Why? Well following Jesus means we are on a journey of being changed to look more like Him. So if we aren't willing to change, or we don't want to listen to God because our hearts are hardened, we won't be like Him at all.

What's the opposite of hard? Yes, soft! Let's learn how the Lord wants our hearts to be. In this verse Jesus says that He will give us a heart of flesh. What is flesh? Flesh is the soft part of a person's body. Jesus is teaching us that He wants to give us a soft heart.

What do you think it means to have a soft heart or a heart of flesh?

When we have a soft heart we are willing to learn and listen and change. We love others and the Lord. Soft-hearted people also are willing to admit when they are wrong and apologize and do better. When we have a soft heart we want to follow Jesus and are willing to let go of what we want, so we can do what the Lord wants us to do.

Do you think there are times when you might have a hard heart? What do you think you can do to soften your heart?

The Lord also says in this verse that *He* will give us a heart of flesh. When we feel that our heart needs softening, we can always pray for the Lord to bless us with a soft heart and the ability to humble ourselves and be more willing to listen and change. Jesus Christ will always bless us when we are trying hard to become more like Him.

Frogs need moist skin to survive, and as disciples of Jesus, we need soft hearts to survive and grow in our faith!

Bearing testimony

Share with your child a time when your heart was hard and the Lord softened it. Explain how having a hard heart was hindering you or your ability to grow, or causing problems in a relationship. Bear testimony that having a soft heart brought more peace or helped bring resolution. Help your child see how much it will bless and help them to have a soft heart.

Optional object lesson

Give your child the dried out piece of play dough and a soft chunk of play dough. Ask them to mold both pieces into a heart. Which is easier to mold and shape? Which one is harder? This is why Jesus needs our hearts to be soft, so He can mold us into who He wants us to be.

Lesson 2

John 1:12

Today in school we learned about the life cycle of the frog, and how frogs start out life as tiny eggs. But they don't stay eggs forever, do they? They grow into frogs! Today we will learn what we can grow into.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

Discussion

Spending time in scripture

Romans 8:16-17

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The first verse says that “we are children of the most High.” The most High is God. What does this mean?

Let's read another scripture about this.

This verse of scripture is talking about Jesus. It says that to as many as receive Him, Jesus gives power to become the sons (or daughters) of God. This means that when we accept the gospel of Jesus Christ and commit to follow Him, the Lord gives us power to begin to be like Him. Just like a tadpole can change and become a frog, the Lord gives us power to change and become more like Him.

The second verse is the one we want to talk about now. The next verse says, “And if children then heirs...” So if we desire to follow Christ and begin to become more like Him, we can also be His heirs. What is an heir? An heir is a person that receives all that someone else has. For example, a prince would be the heir of a king. If a king had palaces and thrones and land and money, whenever the prince became king, the prince would be the king's heir. The prince would receive all that

the king had. Everything would be given to the prince.

This verse says that we are “heirs of God.” If we are God’s heirs, what will we receive?

We will receive all that God has prepared for us – an inheritance in His Kingdom that will be more wonderful than we can even imagine. We cannot understand how beautiful and great the things are that God has prepared for those that follow Him and love Him.

The scriptures also teach that part of our inheritance is being *with* God. “...Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” (Revelation 21:3)

How does it make you feel to know that God has prepared such wonderful things for you?

Today we learned about the life cycle of a frog. This is like our life cycle too! We start out small like a tiny frog egg, but we change and grow. As we grow with the Lord’s help, we can become more like Him. Although we have not grown fully yet, God is working with us to help

us become His heirs. He wants to give us all that He has.

Bearing testimony

Bear testimony of this truth and share how much joy it brings you to know that God loves you and has beautiful things in store for you.

Application through play

Have your child walk through your home and point out things that belong to you as the parent(s) but that are given to the child because they’re the child. This could include your child’s bed, bedroom, the food in your home, outside play equipment, a dresser, etc. Discuss that your child is given these things not because they bought them, but because they are the child of the one who bought them! Likewise, God has bought us everything in His Kingdom, and even though your child didn’t buy it, they get everything!

Lesson 3

Do you remember what we have learned this week? (*Do a brief review.*)

Something unique that we have learned about amphibians this week is that they live part of their life in the water, and then come out of the water changed and ready for a new life. This can point our minds to baptism, so today we will learn about Jesus Christ being baptized.

Spending time in scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway

out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(After reading, summarize this account in your own words.)

Discussion

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Even though Jesus was perfect, He chose to be baptized. Why do you think He did that?

Jesus gave us His own answer to that question in verse 15. He said, "...for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." This means that Jesus knew that being baptized was a sign of obedience and submitting His will to the Father's, and because Jesus was perfectly obedient, He always did what His Father wanted. Even though Jesus was free of sin and did not need baptism for Himself, He wanted to show obedience and love to the Father.

Since Jesus is our perfect example in all things, how can we follow His example and be obedient like Him?

We learn in scripture what baptism means for us.

and our desires to follow Him, as Jesus' baptism did.

Spending time in scripture

Romans 6:4

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Just like amphibians come up out of the water different and ready to live a new life, baptism by water can bless us, and prepare us to set our feet more firmly on a path back to God and live our lives for Him.

Discuss together any baptisms you or your child have seen. What did you feel while you were there?

Discussion

Baptism symbolizes our old self dying, or being “buried with him by baptism into death.” This verse teaches us that baptism shows God your desire to leave behind your old self, be washed clean, and come up a new follower of Christ. Just as the Lord died, was buried, and then arose new “by the glory of the Father,” Jesus Christ’s suffering makes it possible for us to come up out of baptism different more devoted and determined to follow Him.

Our baptism can also show God our willingness to be obedient to Him

Lesson 4

We just learned about what salamanders need to be able to live and survive. Now, we are going to learn about what we as followers of Jesus need so that we are able to live and survive in this world.

Spending time in scripture

Luke 4:4

4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Discussion

In this verse Jesus is quoting another scripture that says “man shall not live by bread alone.” What does this mean? It means that food and earthly things are not enough to nourish us and fill us. Our bodies do not only need to be fed with food, but our spirits also need to be fed and filled. What do we feed our spirits with? Yes the word of God! Just like food nourishes our bodies

and helps us be strong, spending time in God’s word nourishes our spirits and strengthens our faith and belief in Christ, and keeps our commitment to Him strong.

In what ways does the Word of God nourish us and keep us strong?

Make a list together of the ways in which God’s words in the scriptures can nourish us and help us to live. A few ideas are provided below.

- Scripture helps us feel the Holy Spirit, which brings peace and joy.
- Scripture teaches truth, which helps us know what to do and how to live in a way that brings happiness.
- In God’s words we can find answers to our prayers and hear Him speak.

What can we do to better live “by every word of God?”

Striving to be better, together

Make a plan together to dedicate yourselves to living more by the word of God. This plan could include

memorizing a few verses together, or making lists of commandments or directives from Christ so you are familiar with what He needs us to do and become. Or it could be setting aside a specific time each day to study and ponder. What will you do to carry out your plan?

