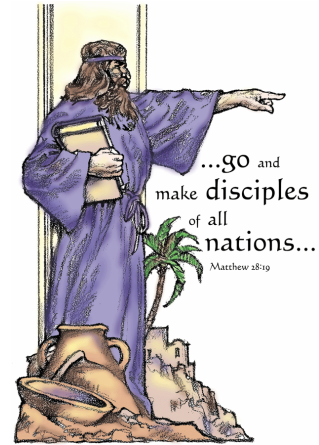


**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA**

Written by St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org), and adapted for Gloria Dei by Beth Tobin, January 2008.

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# Baptism Rotation

## Creation Station: Art Workshop

Make a witness bracelet to use in as a tool for pointing others towards Christ. Describe how a witness bracelet can show others what Christ means in our life.

### **Bible Texts and References:**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-17, and Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:19-34

### **Memory Verses:**

#### **Matthew 3:17**

*"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."*

#### **Matthew 28:19**

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*

### **Concepts:**

- Matthew 28:19 is the Great Commission: for us to witness to others and to baptize.
- Baptism is a natural progression of our belief, and a starting point for our growth in faith.
- Our faith calls us to invite and encourage others, teaching them about God's love.

### **Specific Lesson Objectives:**

- Students will describe how a witness bracelet can show others what Christ means in our life.
- Students will make witness bracelets to use in their lives as a tool for pointing others towards Christ, the Savior.
- Students will practice memorizing Matthew 28:19.
- Students will be able to recall the story of Jesus Baptism.
- Students will be introduced to the concept of God as three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Leader Preparation:**

Read the scripture for this lesson.

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

**Gather the following materials:**

- Bibles; at least one purple Adventure Bible
- Stretchy Bracelet Cording (10"/bracelet - includes room for tying)
- Pony Beads - One of each of the following/bracelet:
  - Red bead-the precious blood of Christ
  - White- the pure holiness of God
  - Dark green- evergreen- as God's love is ever present
  - Black- Our sinful dark lives without Christ
  - Powder Blue- the eternal heavens
  - Lavender- the beautiful love of Christ
  - Peach swirl- Faith in Christ
  - Gold - the promise of eternal life
  - Tan- Dust- Our bodies return to dust, but our soul is eternal in Christ.
  - Dark Blue - the waters of baptism
  - COG- Child of God
- Clear nail polish
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Word cards printed with one word per card: Matthew 28:19
- Containers (bowls) to hold sorted beads
- A photo of your baptism, or your baptism gown if you have one available.

**Preparation Ahead of Time:**

Sort the bead ahead of time into bowls. Have the meaning of each color listed next to each bowl. Make a sample ahead of time. After tying the bracelet several times. Daub the knot with clear nail polish to prevent it from unraveling.

**Opening:**

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the Art Workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults.

Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer. Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. A suggestion: "Dear God, we are thankful to be here today among friends. We are thankful we can hear Bible stories that teach us about Jesus. After we have listened with our ears, we are thankful for the chance to be creative with our hands – to create art that we carry home with us, to remind us what we learn about you. Amen"

**Dig In:**

Ask students what they remember or have been told about their baptism. Share any photos that were brought in, and spend a short time sharing. Share your photo or gown as well.

**(Be sensitive to those who have not been baptized. Encourage them to talk to their parents about it, or our pastor or children’s ministry coordinator. Be sure they know that all who believe can be baptized and that God loves them too and would want them to be baptized.)**

Tell students that today we are going to look more closely at Jesus’ baptism, and something called the “Great Commission.”

[Review the organization of the Bible]

Ask: The Bible is divided into two sections, what are they? (Old & New Testament)  
If we want to read a story about Jesus, where would we find it – in the Old Testament or the New Testament of the Bible? (NT)

What do we call these first four books of the New Testament? (the Gospels)

Say: The word Gospel means “good news.” Jesus teaches us the good news. Part of that good news is that Jesus wants to be a part of our lives – it’s like he wants us to be a part of his loving family. When we read the Gospels we learn about what sort of a relationship we can have with Jesus. In this story we learn about how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. This is not the same John who wrote the Gospel of John. John the Baptist was Jesus’ cousin.

Distribute Bibles. [Praise those who have brought their own Bibles.]

Have everyone find Matthew, chapter 3, verse 1 in his or her Bible.

[Remind them of the quick way to find the New Testament.]

Have those who are able, take turns reading verses 1-17.

Explain that John was sent by God to prepare the people’s hearts to receive Jesus as their Savior. He was called John the Baptist, because he was baptizing people. Where did he baptize people? (The Jordan River) How? (By submerging them and lifting them up again.)

Say: Jesus came to John to be baptized. How did John react? (He said Jesus should be baptizing him. That he was not worthy.) Jesus told John to baptize him. What happened when Jesus was baptized? (The heavens were opened - ripped in two and the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven in the form of a dove. There was a voice from heaven that said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”)

How do you think the people there reacted to this? Jesus was without sin. Why do you think He was baptized? ( Jesus said it was to fulfill all righteousness. He was taking all of our sins on Him. This is also the start of Jesus' ministry. What story do you remember happens right after Jesus is baptized? We studied this one last year. (He went into the desert and was tempted for 40 days.)

Say: Jesus baptism was the start of His ministry, and it's an example for us. Look up Matthew 28:19 and read it together. Have the children underline it in their Bibles. Explain that this is called the "Great Commission."

Say: Like John we are also called by God to witness about Jesus to other people so that they might know Him too. Now it is our turn. These witness bracelets are for you to share with the world. Be sure to tell everyone what they mean.

**Activity:**

Make a witness bracelet out of pony beads. Tell the children what each color means so they can use it as a witness tool to other children and explain the meaning. The meanings are also printed on their Faith Journal Sheets for them to take home.

**Discussion: (while the kids are working - These questions are also found on their Faith Journal Sheets.)**

Ask: How their bracelets could help them tell others about Jesus? What would you say? What opportunities do they have to talk to others about Jesus? Have you thought about what purpose God has for you in your life? What do you think it might be?

Review both memory verses. Have students who finish early work on putting the Matthew 28:19 cards in order.

**Closing:**

Say: God wants us to be a witness for Him - to tell others the Good News of His love. We are all children of God and that can never be taken away from us. Look for ways to talk with others about God this week. Use your bracelet to help you.

Close with Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we pray that you might use us as your instruments, as you did John the Baptist, to point others towards You. Thank you for giving us the greatest gift of love, your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

**Resources:**

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org)  
Beth Tobin, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA  
Hulbert, Carol. Lesson set posted at [rotation.org](http://rotation.org): Mary and Martha – Art Lesson." Nov./05.