

Bible adventures

for young readers

15



God
loves me
28 ways



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"You were all baptized into Christ. ... This shows that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." *Galatians 3:26, 27*

STORY TIME

"What are they doing to them?" Alex asked as he watched a long line of big, noisy cows being guided toward a deep tank of water in the ground. "Are they thirsty? Are they going to get a drink?"

The farmer shook his head. "No, Alex," he said, "they're not thirsty. My cows are about to take a very special bath—one that will keep them from getting sick."

Alex loved to visit the big farm near his home. There was so much to see and learn, so many interesting animals and machines everywhere he looked. But even though he'd visited his friendly neighbor many times before, he'd never seen cows taking a bath!

One by one, the animals were led to the big tank, and one by one the cows were made to walk down into the water.

Splash, splash, moooo. Splash, splash, moooo. Alex laughed because it was so strange to see a cow taking a bath.



DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU THINK IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE WHEN A COW TAKES A BATH.



After a big cow splashed its way out of the tank of water, Alex pointed.

“Now he’s all clean,” he said to the farmer. “Right?”

The farmer nodded. “Yes, Alex. But he’s more than clean. You see, I’ve put some powerful chemicals in that water. Sometimes insects will attach themselves to my cows and bite them. Those bites can make the cows very, very sick. But when I give my cows a bath in that tank of water, the chemicals kill all the insects. So now my cows are both clean and protected from sickness.”

Splash, splash, moooo. Another cow swam through the tank of water and then stumbled out the other side. Clean and protected, Alex thought to himself. “Hey,” he said with a grin. “We do this at my church!”

“You do?” the farmer gasped. “You dip cows in a tank of water?”

“No,” Alex responded with a laugh. “We dip people in a tank of water. The preacher calls it ‘baptism,’ and he says that when someone is baptized, he comes out of the water clean of all of his sins. Not only that; because that person is now in God’s family, he has extra protection against Satan. Clean and protected, just like your cows.”

“Well, well,” the farmer said. “I think you’re right. I’m not only dipping my cows, I’m baptizing them!”

Alex grinned. “And I’m sure those cows would be very happy to know that they are part of God’s family.”

Alex and the farmer chuckled as they watched the next cow stumble into the tank and splash around in the water. “Someday,” Alex said, “when I am baptized, I’m going to think about your farm and how you take such good care of your cows. I’m going to remember how important it is to be clean and protected. And I’m going to thank Jesus for letting me be a part of His family.”



MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

Look in the "Library" section for the letter code key and fill in the missing letters in these important texts. Match the number with the letter in the key (for example, 8 is H).

When Jesus was here on earth, He showed us how to be baptized. (By the way, Jesus was baptized by His cousin John!)

"JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS ⁹ ___ ¹⁴ ___ ²⁰ ___ ⁸ ___ ⁵ ___ ¹⁰ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ¹⁸ ___ ⁴ ___ ¹ ___ ¹⁴ ___
¹⁸ ___ ⁹ ___ ²² ___ ⁵ ___ ¹⁸ ___. WHEN JESUS WAS ³ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ¹³ ___ ⁹ ___ ¹⁴ ___ ⁷ ___
²¹ ___ ¹⁶ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ²¹ ___ ²⁰ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ⁶ ___ ²⁰ ___ ⁸ ___ ⁵ ___ ²³ ___ ¹ ___ ²⁰ ___ ⁵ ___ ¹⁸ ___,
HE SAW HEAVEN OPEN. ... A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN AND SAID: "YOU ARE
¹³ ___ ²⁵ ___ ¹⁹ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ¹⁴ ___ AND ⁹ ___ ¹² ___ ¹⁵ ___ ²² ___ ⁵ ___
²⁵ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ²¹ ___" (Mark 1:9, 10).



When you are baptized, the pastor gently lowers you under the surface of the water and then immediately brings you back up again. Baptism is a beautiful reminder of what Jesus did for us. He died on a cross. He was gently lowered into a grave. And then He rose again. When we go under the water, the sins that made our mind and heart sad are washed away, and we come out of the water to live a new, clean life with Jesus:

"SO WHEN WE WERE BAPTIZED, WE WERE ² ___ ²¹ ___ ¹⁸ ___ ⁹ ___ ⁵ ___ ⁴ ___
²³ ___ ⁹ ___ ²⁰ ___ ⁸ ___ ³ ___ ⁸ ___ ¹⁸ ___ ⁹ ___ ¹⁹ ___ ²⁰ ___. ... WE WERE BURIED WITH
HIM SO THAT WE ³ ___ ¹⁵ ___ ²¹ ___ ¹² ___ ⁴ ___ ¹² ___ ⁹ ___ ²² ___ ⁵ ___ ¹ ___
¹⁴ ___ ⁵ ___ ²³ ___ ¹² ___ ⁹ ___ ⁶ ___ ⁵ ___" (Romans 6:4).



FUN FACTS

Cryptanalysis is the art of deciphering encoded messages.*

The Bible uses code in prophecy to reveal God's plan for future events. You can learn to "decode" the Bible through prayer and study.



*Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptanalysis>



MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for promising to wash my sins away when I'm baptized. And thank You for the powerful protection against sin that You will provide when I come up out of the water. You are my Friend forever. Amen.



LIBRARY

Letter code key

1 A	2 B	3 C	4 D	5 E	6 F	7 G
8 H	9 I	10 J	11 K	12 L	13 M	14 N
15 O	16 P	17 Q	18 R	19 S	20 T	21 U
22 V	23 W	24 X	25 Y	26 Z		



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Those who have taken part in the solemn rite of baptism ... have died to the world. ... We have been buried in the likeness of Christ's death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, and we are to live a new life” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 146).

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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Would you one day like to be buried in baptism, and be raised in the likeness of Christ and His resurrection? Explain why.

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