

January

Baptism: Matthew 3:13-17



Meal

As you sit down around the table together, you may want to light a candle as a reminder that Christ is with you. Someone offer a prayer of blessing for the meal and your time together. As you eat, use this time to enjoy one another's company. You may ask one another to share where they have seen God at work this month or one thing each person is grateful for. Do remember to make sure everyone is included in the conversation!



Rule of Life

Each month, choose one part of your Rule of Life to discuss together. Share your joys in following the Rule and any challenges you may have faced. You can do this during the meal, if you'd like, but do not neglect this step! The Rule of Life is an important part of holding your group together and keeping on track.



Explore and Play Together

Read the month's key Bible story aloud one time.

What did you notice in the story? Explore the story. What story comes before this one? What story comes after? Who are the characters? What are they doing? Where is God in this story? What is God doing?

Play together: Pick one of the activities to do together or make up your own activity! Tell a story. Draw or paint a picture. Get creative! Make sure your activity involves everyone in your group.

After you've finished your activity, read the Bible story another time. How did the activity help you think about the story in a new way? What do you wonder about this story? Where do you see yourself in this story?



Serve

What will you do to serve God, to serve each other, to serve your neighbors this month? Before you close your time together, make a plan on how your group will serve this month.



Pray

Close your time together by praying together. Your group may take turns praying. You may consider writing a prayer together for your Companion group that you can use each month. (Don't spend too much time with specific requests...this can quickly get your group off track.)

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A note about this month:

January is the month when we remember Jesus' baptism and often take time to remember our own baptism.

This is a great time to talk together about your baptism – Do you remember being baptized? Many of us don't, as we were baptized as children. But you can talk about your kids' baptism with them!

Traditional symbols for baptism include water, a dove, and a shell.

Companion Webpage: <http://aumcsc.org/companion-groups-at-aldersgate>

The webpage includes the monthly checklist, the month's plan, and links to activities.

Potential Activities for This Month:

There's a great coloring sheet posted on our Companion Pinterest page (see link below).

There is a link on the Pinterest page for a dove made out of paper plates.

Here's a link for a "spinner" -

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/01/printable-baptism-of-jesus-spinner.html>

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com> has a few other baptism ideas, as well.

Suncatchers: A few years ago, we made these at Messy Church and they turned out great. Use blue/green/clear stones to symbolize water.

<http://myhappycrazylife.com/mothers-day-craft-sun-catchers/>

While snowflakes don't have anything specifically to do with baptism, you could make paper snowflakes together and talk about how no two flakes are alike but they are all beautiful. No two humans are exactly alike and yet we are all loved by God.

There are more ideas on the Companion Pinterest page:

<https://www.pinterest.com/johannahmyers/companion-groups/>

Ideas are also linked on the Companion page:

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