

LifeGroup Study SheetSeptember 17th, 2023: Baptism Service!

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Think about a way that you have intentionally and publicly identified with something! Maybe it's your favorite sports team by wearing that team's colors, marrying your spouse, and wearing a wedding band, etc. What significance is there in publicly identifying with that person, team or organization?

Digging In

Question 1 Read Matthew 28:19-20. After Jesus is crucified and resurrects from the grave, He has defeated sin and death – He gives everyone who will follow him their “marching orders.” Jesus tells them three specific things: (1) Make disciples, (2) baptize them, (3) teach them to obey all He commands. Why do you think Jesus includes baptism as part of this commissioning? How do you think the aspect of “being made into a disciple” is connected to baptism and obeying?

Question 2: Let's look at common misconceptions of the meaning of baptism:

- Baptism will help wash away my sin. (**Read 1 John 1:7-10**)
- Baptism is a means to receive salvation. (**Read Ephesians 2:8-9**)
- Baptism can be done before putting your faith in Christ. (**Read Acts 2:41, Acts 8:34-38, Acts 16:14-15**)

How does scripture teach your sins are cleansed for you? What is the sole way that a person can receive salvation that Jesus offers? What are some of the New Testament examples of people being baptized and at what point in their faith journey are they baptized?

Question 3: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Colossians 2:12. Both of these passages speak to the spiritual transformation that happens to us when we put our faith in the finished work of Jesus. How do you see the connection in these two passages? Verse 12 says the phrase, “you were raised with him through faith.” Why is this phrase so important to understand?

Application

Have you been baptized?

If not, what has held you back?

If yes, how can God use your baptism story to witness to others.

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?