

LifeGroup Study SheetFeb 23rd, 2025 – Holy Habits – Obedience (Baptism)

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

Growing up, what was your understanding of baptism? What was the emphasis of your understanding? Had you ever been baptized? Was it your decision or a decision made for you? How has your understanding of baptism changed over time?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Matthew 28:16-18. Jesus had already been crucified and resurrected, defeating sin and death. After appearing to his disciples and hundreds of other witnesses, He gives his last charge to His disciples before He ascends back to the right hand of His Father. Jesus says in **verse 18** “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me!” **John 12:31** calls Satan “the ruler of this world.” **1 John 5:19** says that the world is “under control of the evil one.” How do you think Jesus can make such a claim to have all authority in heaven and on earth? How does **Colossians 1:13 and Acts 26:18** help you understand what Jesus did for you?

Question 2: Read Matthew 28:19-20. Jesus tells his disciples in **verse 19**, “go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” The first part of this command is “go make disciples.” What is a disciple of Jesus? Why does Jesus emphasize making disciples before telling them to baptize? Use **Matthew 4:19** to help define what a disciple looks like. What are ways you can see you are being discipled into the image of Jesus this week? If you are a disciple of Jesus already, have you been baptized?

Question 3: Read Matthew 19:16-22. Pastor Jeff taught through Matthew 19, specifically Jesus' conversation with the rich young ruler. One of the things Pastor Jeff emphasized was our need to “recognize the standard of God.” What do you think this means based on the specific context of the passage? How did this man's self-righteousness get in the way of his repentance? How have you seen that in your own life? How did this man want to contribute or add to Jesus' way of being saved? Have you ever realized your own heart tries to do the same? How?

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?