LifeGroup Study Sheet

Feb 19th and 22nd th, 2026: 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

Have you ever worn something (a jersey, uniform, ring, etc.) that told others what you stood for? What makes public identification different from private belief? Why is public identification sometimes more meaningful to what you believe personally?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Romans 6:3-5. Pastor Jeff talked about two different types of baptism throughout the New Testament - water baptism and spiritual baptism. These verses are talking about the spiritual baptism that happens when we put our faith in Christ. How does water baptism visibly portray the spiritual reality Paul describes? Why do you think Paul connects baptism so closely with dying and rising with Christ? How does **Galatians 3:26 and Ephesians 2:8-9** help us understand the difference between those two baptisms? How does this Romans 6 passage allow you to see the spiritual identification that happens in Christ with baptism?

Question 2: Read Matthew 28:19-20. 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 says "make disciples" before mentioning baptism? What might happen if baptism is emphasized without discipleship? 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 3: Read Acts 8:13, 20-23. Why is it dangerous to treat baptism as a spiritual finish line? How does the story of Simon the Sorcerer make you think about your heart posture and motivation for following the Lord?

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 4: 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 after you have put your faith in Christ?

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?