

Week 5: Baptism, A Deep Dive

Ask for the group to summarize/review what you discussed last week.

Ask someone to pray to open discussion.

Ask a volunteer to read: This Movie Scene: Pause the movie. We need to talk about a prequel reference Matthew made last week that is important. John was baptizing people, Jesus came to get baptized, and the heavens dramatically opened up. What did this mean to the people watching? What should this mean for us? What is baptism anyway?

Believer's baptism is the act of immersing a new believer to outwardly demonstrate the inner change that has taken place when someone is forgiven from their sins and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to read: Matthew 28:19-20

- What did Jesus command here in the Great Commission?
Go & make disciples: baptize them & teach them what I have commanded you

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 14 minutes

Ask a volunteer to read: Romans 6:1-11

- Paul describes the symbolism of baptism. What does being put under the waters of baptism represent?
Our death to sin (v. 2); being baptized into Christ and into his death (v. 3); united with Christ in the likeness of his death (v. 5); our old self crucified so sin would be made powerless in us (v. 6); being freed from sin (v. 7)
- What does being brought up out of the waters of baptism represent?
Identify with Christ's resurrection and being raised to newness of life (v. 4); united with Christ in the likeness of his resurrection (v. 5); being alive to God in Christ (v. 11)
- What does verse 6 say that sin does to us?
Rules over us and enslaves us

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 5 minutes

Ask a volunteer to read: Baptism is an ordinance or sacrament (depending on your denomination), meaning it is a symbolic ceremony, practiced by the church (the people of God), established & commanded by Christ, to rehearse the story of God alongside other believers. **How does baptism rehearse the story of God?**

Ask a volunteer to read: Isaiah 43:2

- Note that water and fire often represent divine judgement in the Bible. What is promised here?
When we pass through the waters, he will be with us and we will not be overwhelmed; you will not be scorched and the flame will not burn you

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 7 minutes

Ask a volunteer to read: Genesis 6:11-18; 7:1, 15-23

- Why did God send the flood (Genesis 6:11-13, 17)?
Earth was corrupt and filled with wickedness so God was going to send divine judgement to destroy everything and everyone

- How was Noah safely brought through the waters of judgement (6:18-22)?
By obeying God and building and entering the ark with family and animals; God's salvation, Noah's faith & obedience

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 8 minutes

The Exodus from Egypt

- In Exodus 14:21-22, how did God's people safely cross the waters of the Red Sea?
God parted the waters and the people of God crossed over on dry ground
- Read Exodus 3:11-12; 6:6-7; 29:45-46. What were the people of God being saved from? What were they being saved to? In other words, what was the situation before and after their baptism?
Before: slavery in Egypt
"Baptism": crossing the Red Sea
After: being with God and worshipping Him; being God's chosen people and belonging to Him; God dwelling with them, knowing God, belonging to Him

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 6 minutes

Application

- What did you learn about the symbolism of baptism?
Answers will vary; lead with honest vulnerability in your answers, where appropriate.
- How does this change how you view baptism, both your own and the witnessing of the baptism of others?
Answers will vary; lead with honest vulnerability in your answers, where appropriate.
- If you have been saved, have you been obedient to the command to be baptized? If not, what is holding you back? What parent or leader can you talk with about your questions?
Let this be a silent response time so that no one feels singled out, but emphasize that living in obedience to Christ means taking this step for those who have been saved; A note: Some denominations, including Southern Baptist, state that baptism is a prerequisite for taking the Lord's Supper in order to protect the Lord's Supper.

Remind students of Homework: Read Matthew 4

_____ (Write your intended start time here): 5 minutes

Corporate Response: Stand and Read Aloud Together (Not in Your Boring Voice)

Respond together in worship by standing and reciting the following Psalm. Let the students know that this is how each lesson will end because we want to grow as worshippers as we learn more about who God is. Encourage them to not use a boring recitation voice and to consider the words as you go through the verses.

Before you begin, ask a volunteer to close in prayer when you are finished.

Psalm 66:1-12 (CSB)

¹ Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God!
² Sing about the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.
³ Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are your works!
Your enemies will cringe before you
because of your great strength.

⁴ The whole earth will worship you
and sing praise to you.
They will sing praise to your name.”

⁵ Come and see the wonders of God;
his acts for humanity are awe-inspiring.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land,
and they crossed the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him.

⁷ He rules forever by his might;
he keeps his eye on the nations.
The rebellious should not exalt themselves.

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard.

⁹ He keeps us alive
and does not allow our feet to slip.

¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us as silver is refined.

¹¹ You lured us into a trap;
you placed burdens on our backs.

¹² You let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out to abundance.