



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ice Breaker: You have to sing karaoke what song do you pick?
(Feel free to sing your answer...if your group is OK with it.)

- John the Baptist's baptism was symbolic of repentance (Matthew 3:11a). Is repentance a part of saying "YES!" to Christ? If so, how?
- Finish reading the story in Matthew 3:13-17 and as found in John 1:29-34. Why was it important for Jesus to be baptized by John? What was the result?
- Begin by reading Acts 2:29-41. Pastor Tom defined baptism as "an outward sign and symbol of what has happened inwardly and spiritually..." How does what Peter said in verse 38 support this definition?
- In the early church, identifying with Jesus through baptism often meant breaking relationships with family and friends. Could baptism cause similar relational challenges today? Do you know anyone who was rejected by their family because of baptism?
- Pastor Tom said that baptism matters because it visually describes what salvation means. Read Romans 6:4-11. In what 3 ways does baptism show our identification with Christ? What do verses 6 and 7 declare as the outcome of our being united with Christ? How have you experienced this in your life?
- In Pastor Tom's message on Sunday he said that baptism is not an "optional extra" for Jesus followers. How does Acts 2:38-41 and Acts 8:26-39 support this?
- What was the timeframe of a person making a faith decision and their baptism in the examples above? How might your small group encourage one another to take this next step if you have not yet done so?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Read Psalm 119:1-40

Day 2: Read Psalm 119:41-80

Day 3: Read Psalm 119:81-120

Day 4: Read Psalm 119:121-152

Day 5: Read Psalm 119:153-176

BECOMING MOTIVATED

SENIOR PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES

JULY 28, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES

...I'm going to encourage and challenge a number of you here today to take a _____ next step in your spiritual journey. What is _____ and why does it matter so much (note Acts 2:41)?

1. What the New Testament Tells Us About Water Baptism

A. What baptism means—"Baptizo" = "to _____...to immerse"

"I would have those who are to be baptized to be _____ immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies. (Martin Luther)

The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the _____ church. (John Calvin)

Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the _____ of the first church." (John Wesley)

B. John the Baptist—his ministry shows us that baptism was not a new idea _____ by Christians, or even by John the Baptist. Baptism = always a symbolic _____. John the "Baptizer" practiced a baptism that symbolized r _____ (note Matthew 3:7-11a).

C. Baptism of Jesus—His baptism was _____ of a number of things:

- It was to "_____ all righteousness" (note Matthew 3:15)...
- Fulfilled the mission of John the Baptist and marked the start of Jesus' _____ ministry.
- Jesus identified Himself with the _____ condition of humanity which He had come to save.
- It is an example to _____ His followers.

D. Other New Testament Examples—baptism practiced _____ after commitment to Jesus Christ, so much so that often baptism and salvation closely tied together:

- Acts 2, Pentecost
- Acts 8, Samaritan converts and Ethiopian government official
- Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus

- Acts 16, Lydia of Thyatira and Philippian jailer and his household
- Acts 18, believers in Corinth
- Acts 19, Ephesian disciples

Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of _____ baptism).

Note Matthew 28:18-20 (_____ Commission).

Baptism is an outward sign and symbol of what has happened inwardly and spiritually to a person who commits their life to Jesus _____. The _____ of baptism does not provide salvation...

2. Why Baptism Matters

- Baptism describes visually what s _____ means (note Romans 6:4-11).
- Baptism is an initial _____ of discipleship (note John 14:15).
- Baptism represents h _____.
- Baptism is a _____ testimony.
- Baptism represents _____.

So am I becoming...:

Baptism is not an "_____ extra" for Jesus followers.

- It's to be done as soon after you say "YES" to Jesus as Lord as possible (note Acts 8:26-31, 34-39).
- The challenge is for you to make a bold commitment to be baptized.

Here are the 3 qualifications to engage in baptism:

- You need to be a follower of Jesus.
- You need to have not been baptized as an adult believer in Christ already.
- You need to be at least 12 years old (we do baptize children younger than 12 if they have parental support and have talked it through with our Family Ministry leaders. Family Ministries also has a discipleship class called *No Limits* for children under 12; they are given a chance to engage in baptism after completing this course; you can find details on our website).

Don't get baptized:

- If you're not sure about following Jesus.
- If you're trying to impress others.
- If you think it would be a "cool" experience with your friends/family. Do what Jesus calls you to do.

Take this important next step and be baptized at our summer baptism next Sunday, (August 4th)! Baptism coaches are available at the end of the service to help you begin to take this important next step of water baptism. Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Becoming Motivated”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...I’m going to encourage and challenge a number of you here today to take a _____ next step in your spiritual journey...this next step for _____ fully-devoted Jesus follower is water baptism. What is _____ and why does it matter so much (note Acts 2:41)?

1. What the New Testament Tells Us About Water Baptism

A. What baptism means—”Baptizo” = “to _____...to immerse”

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Note Matthew 28:18-20 (_____ Commission). Baptism is an outward sign and symbol of what has happened inwardly and spiritually to a person who commits their life to Jesus _____. The _____ of baptism does not provide salvation...

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- B. Baptism is an initial _____ of discipleship (note John 14:15).
- C. Baptism represents h_____.
- D. Baptism is a _____ testimony.
- E. Baptism represents _____.

So am I becoming... :

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