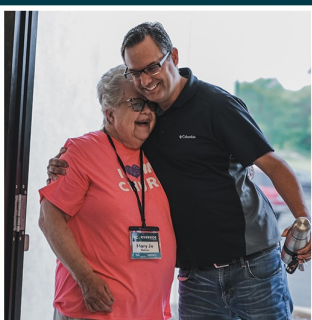




Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



# "LOVE FOLLOWING JESUS (Part 1)"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...Jesus has told us that every human being (including \_\_\_\_\_) are all on a road trip that's so important that the road we choose to travel on will make all the difference in this life and eternity (note [Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

Why is baptism an \_\_\_\_\_ mile marker on the road less traveled?

## 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 show 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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 are closely tied together:

- Acts 2, Pentecost
- Acts 8, Samaritan converts 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](#). 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

- A. Baptism describes visually what \_\_\_\_\_ means. (note [Romans 6:4-5](#))
- B. Baptism is an initial \_\_\_\_\_ of discipleship. (note [John 14:15](#))
- C. Baptism represents \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ testimony.
- E. Baptism represents \_\_\_\_\_!

### *Am I on the road less traveled?:*

- Baptism is not an “\_\_\_\_\_ extra” for Jesus' followers.
- It's to be done as soon after you say ‘\_\_\_\_\_!’ to Jesus as possible. (note [Acts 8:34-39](#))
- The challenge is for you to make a bold commitment to be baptized.

Here are the 3 qualifications to engage in baptism:

- I. You need to be a follower of Jesus.
- II. You need to have not been baptized as an adult believer in Christ already.
- III. 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 at [myrc.church/nolimits](http://myrc.church/nolimits)).*

Don't get baptized:

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**Take this important next step to be baptized at our summer baptism next Sunday, August 1st!** 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! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or in person).*

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# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Icebreaker:* If someone showed up at your door and offered to do the chore or project you were dreading the most, what would it be?

1. John the Baptist's baptism was symbolic of repentance ([Matthew 3:11a](#)). Is repentance a part of saying 'YES!' to Christ? If so, how?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. 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 8:34-39](#) support this?
7. 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?

Day One: [Psalm 6](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 6](#)

Day Three: [Joshua 6](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 6](#)

Day Five: [Acts 6](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from  
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

## PERSONAL GUIDE



# "LOVE FOLLOWING JESUS (Part 1)"

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Why is baptism an indispensable mile marker on the road less traveled?

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B. John the Baptist—his ministry show us that baptism was not a new idea invented by Christians, or even by John the Baptist.

- Baptism = always a symbolic act.
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Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of infant baptism).

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

## 2. Why Baptism Matters

- A. Baptism describes visually what salvation means. (note [Romans 6:4-5](#))
- B. Baptism is an initial test of discipleship. (note [John 14:15](#))
- C. Baptism represents humility.
- D. Baptism is a public testimony.
- E. Baptism represents victory!

### *Am I on the road less traveled?:*

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