



What is Baptism?

Opening: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Overview: Baptism is a timeless practice that marks the movement from spectator to participant. It is a public declaration that we trust and follow Jesus, a response of obedience that follows His example, and a visible picture of the gospel: buried with Christ and raised to new life.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- Think of a meaningful rite of passage or public milestone in your life. What made it significant?
- When have you moved from watching something from the sideline to fully participating? What helped you take that step?

DISCOVER

Read Together: *Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 3:13-17; and Romans 6:3-4 together*

Initial observations + Interpreting Scripture:

- **Initial Thoughts:** What stood out to you from this passage or from the sermon?
- **Instruction - Jesus Tells Us To:** In Matthew 28, baptism is included in Jesus' mission to make disciples.
 - What does that tell us about the role and importance of baptism in following Him?
 - The sermon describes baptism as drawing a line in the sand. Why is a public declaration valuable/necessary when faith is deeply personal?
 - How does the call to baptize remind us that disciple-making belongs to every follower of Jesus, not only pastors?
- **Imitation - Jesus Shows Us How:** Jesus did not need cleansing from sin, yet He chose baptism in humility and obedience.
 - What do you learn about following Jesus from His example?
 - At Jesus' baptism, the Father calls Him beloved before His public ministry begins. How might receiving your identity from God change the way you serve, achieve, or handle failure?
- **Immersion - The Gospel Made Visible:** Romans 6 connects baptism with Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - What does going under the water and rising again proclaim?

- Why is it important to be clear that the water is not magic and does not earn God's acceptance?
- How can baptism become a memory that anchors a believer during seasons of doubt, guilt, or suffering?

APPLY – Live from Your Baptism

Baptism does not promise an easy life; it's a step toward a surrendered life rooted in grace.

- **Remember Your Identity:** If you have been baptized, what truth about belonging to Jesus do you need to remember today?
- **Take the Plunge:** If you trust Jesus but have not chosen baptism for yourself, what question or fear is keeping you from the next conversation?
- **Cheer Someone On:** Who is one person you can encourage as they explore faith, baptism, or a next step with Jesus?

RESPOND

These prompts can be used for prayer and introspection. Discuss them together or invite everyone to reflect on them throughout the week.

- **Self-Reflect:** Am I living as someone who is all in with Jesus, or am I still staying safely on the sidelines in one area of life?
- **Challenge:** Share your next step with someone in the group and ask them to pray for you this week.

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Death and Resurrection:** Thank Jesus for His death and resurrection.
- **New Identity:** Thank God for the new identity we have in Christ
- **Baptisms:** Pray for anyone who's considering getting baptized, and that you and the members of your group would live a life on mission, hoping to baptize others and live out the Great Commission.
- **Humility:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help every person live with humble obedience and joyful dependence on Christ.

CLOSING

If you want to explore baptism, tell your group leader or connect with a pastor so you can share your story and talk through what Scripture teaches. If you have already been baptized, revisit Romans 6 this week and thank God that your life is joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus.