

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



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SUMMARY

In this sermon from the 'Church Explained' series, the pastor explores the significance of baptism by tracing the theme of water throughout Scripture. He begins with Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13-17, explaining that we practice immersion baptism because the Greek word 'baptizo' means to immerse or submerge. The sermon then journeys through biblical water narratives: creation (Genesis 1), Noah's flood, the Red Sea crossing, the Jordan River crossing, and Jonah's experience - all showing how God brings new life through water.

INTRO PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the significance of baptism, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to understand Your Word more deeply. Help us to see the beautiful picture You've painted throughout Scripture of bringing new life through water. Guide our conversation today and reveal to each of us what You want us to learn about this sacred practice. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

What's your favorite memory involving water - whether it's a beach vacation, swimming pool, lake, or even just playing in sprinklers as a kid?

KEY VERSES

- Matthew 3:16-17
- Romans 6:3-4
- Genesis 1:1-2
- Exodus 14:13-14
- Joshua 3:14-17

QUESTIONS

- Why do we practice baptism by immersion rather than sprinkling or pouring? What biblical evidence supports this practice?
- The sermon traces water imagery throughout Scripture. Which biblical water story resonates most with you personally and why?
- Romans 6:3-4 connects baptism with Christ's death and resurrection. How does this passage deepen your understanding of baptism's significance?
- Tim mentioned baptism is a picture of what Jesus has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. Can you explain each of these aspects?
- How does understanding the biblical theme of 'God bringing new life through water' enhance your appreciation of baptism?
- What emotions or thoughts do you experience when witnessing someone else's baptism? Why do you think we celebrate baptisms as a church family?
- If you've been baptized, what was your experience like? If not, what questions or hesitations do you have about baptism?
- How might we better communicate the significance of baptism to new believers or those unfamiliar with church traditions?

LIFE APPLICATION

This week, take time to reflect on your own baptism or consider baptism if you haven't yet taken this step. Write down what baptism means to you personally in light of the biblical themes we've discussed. If you've been baptized, consider how you're living out that commitment to die to your old self and live a new life in Christ. If you haven't been baptized but are a follower of Jesus, pray about whether God is calling you to take this step of obedience. Share your reflections with at least one other person in our group this week.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Baptism is both modeled and commanded by Jesus, making it a significant biblical practice for believers.
- Throughout Scripture, God consistently uses water as a symbol of bringing new life, cleansing from sin, and fulfilling His promises.
- Baptism symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).
- When we are baptized, we're proclaiming what Jesus has done (His death and resurrection), what He is doing now (transforming our lives), and what He will do (raise us to eternal life).
- Baptism is a public celebration of someone being adopted into God's family and choosing to follow Jesus.

ENDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for the beautiful picture of baptism that connects us to Your death, burial, and resurrection. We're grateful for the way You've woven the theme of water and new life throughout Scripture, showing us Your consistent character and faithfulness. For those of us who have been baptized, help us to live out the commitment we made to die to our old selves and walk in new life with You. For those considering baptism, give them clarity and courage to take this step of obedience. May we never lose sight of the significance of baptism as we celebrate with our brothers and sisters who publicly proclaim their faith through these waters. Thank You for the new life You offer to all who follow You. In Your name we pray, amen.