



# Baptism

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## GROUP ICE BREAKER

Tell a story about a transformational moment in your life.

## REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

- I will be an “and then some” kind of person in my work.
- I will not treat someone differently based on their job.
- I will ask the question, “How does my behavior, choices, words, financial life, and treatment of other people reflect the Jesus I follow and the God I serve?”
- I will keep my priorities straight — God, family, then work.
- I will do my current job with greater love.
- I will be accountable for my work, and not make excuses.
- I will create a daily finish line for work and I will honor the sabbath each week.

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

How do you know if you are a Christian? It may seem like a simple question, but at times the answer can be hard to articulate.

An inward faith and relationship with Jesus can, at times, be outwardly expressed through different practices. We call some of these practices ‘sacraments,’ and this week, we are exploring the sacrament of Baptism.

There was a point in Jesus’ life where he was no longer known as a carpenter from Nazareth but as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. It was a significant turning point in his life. Like Jesus, there comes the point in all of our lives where we recognize our need for a change of purpose, for a turning point. Join us Sunday as we talk about what marks that turning point in our lives and what it looks like to take the first step in our Christ-centered lives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you have been baptised, share a story of your baptism! Where did you get baptised? How old were you? Was it a dunk or sprinkle?
2. Matt talks about how one of the primary practices that indicates the presence of our relationship with God is the practice of baptism. Why do you think that these types of sacraments are important for our walk with God?
3. We see Baptism early in the New Testament, when Jesus was baptised by John. Why do you think this story is included in a majority of the Gospels? What does the presence of the story reveal about its importance?
4. Matt noted that Jesus was baptised for a handful of reasons, the first being that the baptism marked a turning point for his life. What is the significance of baptism being an act of turning in our lives?
5. Jesus was also baptised as a public expression of his commitment to God. Why do you think public declarations of faith are important in a believers life?
6. Matt also noted that Jesus was baptised as a demonstration of humility. How does submission to God play into the narrative of baptism?
7. The final reason for Jesus' baptism was to display his ultimate mission. How does the moment of baptism in the Bible help you to understand Jesus' mission in his ministry?
8. Baptism is understood to be an expression in a public way of someone who has put their faith in Jesus. Why do you think this practice became one of the important practices in the early church?
9. Why do you think baptism is central to our walk with Christ today?

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 28:19-20
- Act 8:36
- Matthew 3:13-14
- Acts 3:19
- Matthew 3:16-17
- Romans 6:4
- Acts 8:13
- Acts 18:8
- Mark 10:14
- 2 Samuel 12:22
- Matthew 3:16
- 1 John 5:3

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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