

BAPTISM



INTRODUCTION

Baptism

Baptism is recognized and practiced worldwide in today's society in a variety of ways. Our goal is simply to understand what it is, what it is not, and redirect some common misconceptions. By reading 3 stories, all from the book of Acts, we can gain a greater insight to God's purpose for baptism.

The ultimate question for all of us today is: where are you in this process? Have you placed your faith in Jesus? Have you been baptized? If so, are you making disciples by pointing other people toward faith in Christ and baptism?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some church practices that may not make sense to outsiders? Where does baptism rank among these?
2. What were some ideas you learned about baptism growing up? How do those compare to what you know now?
3. From reading several conversion stories in Acts (8:26-39, 9:1-9 & 17-19, 16:25-34), we can see that God uses all kinds of different encounters to open people's eyes toward him. What was the event(s) in your life that led to you placing faith in Christ?
4. Read Colossians 2:11-15. What does this passage teach us about baptism? What is the imagery of baptism doing?
5. Read Romans 6:1-14. This passage talks about baptism as participating in Jesus' story. What does this passage say about what should change after knowing Christ?
6. In what ways is baptism similar to wearing a wedding ring? If baptism doesn't save us, why do you think it's important?
7. Have you been baptized? If not, what's holding you back?
8. Once we've been baptized, our role shifts toward helping others follow in our footsteps. In whose life might God want to use you in this way?

APPLICATION

KEY VERSES

Acts 8:27-39
Acts 9:1-8, 17-18
Acts 16:25-33
Romans 6:3-7