

# BAPTISM



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## INTRODUCTION

## Baptism Sunday

Baptism is an important step of obedience for every person who has placed their faith in Jesus.

It's a way for Christians to identify themselves with Christ and go public with their faith. The baptism process at The Ridge has been designed to help you understand and prepare to take this next step in your journey.

Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." –Matthew 28:19

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were growing up, did you attend a church that baptized people? If so, how did they do it: by sprinkling or by emersion? Was it for children or adults? What do you think the significance of the baptism was?
2. What are some of the differences between infant baptism and believers' baptism?
3. If you have been baptized since placing your faith in Christ, tell your baptism story.
4. Read Acts 8:26-39. What can we learn about baptism from these verses?
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why do you think Jesus wanted people to be baptized? What do you think baptism symbolizes? According to these verses, who is allowed to baptize another person?
6. Many churches teach that a person has to be baptized in order to go to heaven. How would you challenge that belief? How do the following verses address this issue: John 1:12, John 3:16;Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-6?
7. Why do you think so many people are hesitant to get baptized by immersion? How might you persuade someone to consider taking that step?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

What is baptism all about? What does baptism mean? Why should I do it? Simply put, we baptize by immersion because we believe Jesus wants us to do it.

The word baptize means, "to place into" or "to immerse." Jesus said we were to be placed into or baptized into water, because it was intended to be a picture—a symbol of our newfound faith. It's a picture of death and resurrection, the cleansing we experience through Christ, our new life in Christ, being "all in" for Christ, and being placed into the body of Christ.

Although baptism is an important step for those who have placed their faith in Christ, we don't believe baptism saves a person. In other words, we don't think a person needs to be baptized in order to go to heaven. The only requirement for that is to place your trust in Jesus Christ to be your Savior. If you have done that, we believe that you will go to heaven when you die, regardless of whether you have been baptized or not. In the same way, baptism is not what makes us Christians. It's simply something we do to tell the world we are Christians.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18b-20, HCSB

## KEY VERSES

John 3:16	Romans 10:9-10
Matthew 28:18-20	2 Corinthians 5:17
1 Corinthians 1:14-17	Acts 2:41
1 Corinthians 12:13	Ephesians 2:8-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-6	