

Clarifying Questions about Baptism
Various Scriptures on Baptism

Main Point: *Baptism in Christ is an act of obedience and blessing for a Christian.*

Getting to Know You

1. What are some common reasons as to why Christians want to get baptized? What are some common excuses Christians use for not getting baptized?

Getting into the Book

Read Matthew 3:13-17

2. Why did Jesus get baptized? (Leader: see verse 15, “to fulfill all righteousness.” As our representative before God, Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly. Also, He served as an example of obedience for us to follow.)

Read Matthew 28:18-20

3. Why is it important for a disciple of Jesus to get baptized?

Read Romans 6:1-7

4. In what ways are we united with Jesus through baptism? What are the implications of our union with Christ?

Getting Out There

5. How would you respond to someone who says, “You have to be baptized to be saved!”? Back up your answers with specific Scriptures.

(Leader: Acts 15:9-11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5 are possible Scriptures. There are some passages that people will use to defend their view of baptism being necessary for salvation, such as John 3:5; Acts 2:38; and 1 Peter 3:21. You may need to do some study ahead of time on these verses to be prepared).

6. What would you say to the Christian who says, “Baptism isn’t necessary for salvation, so I am not going to be baptized!”?
7. What clear pattern do you see in the following passages, Acts 2:41; 8:12; 18:8?
(Leader: belief then baptism, not baptism then belief)
8. How would you respond to someone who says, “I want to get baptized again, because I am more committed to Christ now than when I was baptized”?

(Leader: Ephesians 4:5 says there is “one baptism.” Baptism is a one-time event signifying entrance into the Christian life. If we needed to be baptized every time we understood more about it, we’d need to be baptized frequently!)

9. Ask someone in the group to tell their baptism story: When, why, where?
10. For those who have not been baptized, check with the church to see when the next baptism is scheduled.

Pray

Give thanks to God for your union with Christ and all that is yours because of the riches of His grace.