

Baptism in Water

Disclaimer: People have many acceptable differing opinions and experiences with water baptism. Thinking through the topic and familiarizing oneself with the scriptures maybe the most beneficial way to prepare for a discussion.

Goals:

- To discuss the importance of baptism
- Answer some basic questions about what water baptism is
- Find out what the scriptures say about baptism

Diving In:

- Do you have any experiences or thoughts about water baptism?
- In your opinion how important do you think baptism is?

Scripture & discussion questions - See back of handout

Matthew 3: 13-15 (Jesus sets the example for us all)

Matthew 28:18-20 (Proof that it is God's command)

Romans 6:1-7 (Baptized into his death and resurrected into new life)

Acts 2:37, 38 & 41 (Order of events...Early church model)

Ponder Together:

- What benefits do you think there are by having your baptism be a public event?
- Do you think that is an important aspect of baptism?
- Chew together: It's interesting that some Muslim countries will allow their people to claim Christianity but as soon as they are baptized, they become objects of persecution.
- What are your thoughts about that?
- What is it about baptism that causes this reaction?
- What are the impacts of this discussion on your life?
- Do you think you might need to be baptized? Why or why not?

Action Steps:

1. If you are interesting in getting re-baptized, explain why you are interested in doing this.
 - What are your thoughts on why you don't consider your first baptism enough?"
2. If you're interested in being baptized, CCF has baptisms in December and May.
 - Applications are online!

Baptism Scriptures and Discussion Questions:

Matthew 3:13 – 15

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

- Why do you think Jesus was baptized?

Matt 28:18 - 20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Why do you think Jesus commands baptism?

Romans 6:1-7

³ ... don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, ^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

- What does baptism really mean or signify to you?

Acts 2:37, 38 & 41 (Order of events...Early church model)

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- When do you think a person should be baptized?