



BAPTIZE

PASSAGES

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 10:2, Luke 11:38, Luke 12:50, Acts 1:5, 1 Corinthians 1:13-17; Matthew 28:19; John 3:18, 12:13; Acts 3:6, 9:27; Colossians 3:17; John 14:15-17; John 15:1-5; Acts 1:4-5; Luke 5:1-11; John 17:18-23; John 17:11; John 16:32; Mark 1:9-11; Mark 14:36; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 5:16-18; 1 John 4:1-12; Ephesians 4:4-6

PREPARE

1. Before leading your group into studying the passage, take some time to study and pray through the passages yourself.
2. Consider these principles.
 - Baptism has a primary spiritual meaning that supercedes the physical act. (immersion in the name of...)
 - Baptism is the heart of discipling
 - Baptism is the apologetic for discipling
 - Jesus' model
 - New Testament model

DISCUSS

1. Open the door for any initial discussion, questions, or comments about the teaching.
2. Identify the truths in this passage related to the following principles:
 - Baptism is immersion into the person and work of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
 - To baptize then is to increasingly know, embrace, and live in ways that consistent who God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are and what they have done.
 - Baptism speaks of a "heart" of discipling. It defines an attitude and way of life for those on the journey of becoming formed into His image and leading others into that as well.

- Jesus himself demonstrated a life that was immersed in the Father as He relied on Him for all things and conceded to His will.
- Jesus himself demonstrated a life that was immersed in the Holy Spirit as He waited for His indwelling to begin His ministry and applied the same power to His disciples as his ascension.
- Our new identity in Christ is central to this idea of baptism in that we have spiritually been placed into Christ's death and resurrection. This is the power of our new life in Him.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit is testament to the fact that we are living in a new baptized way of life - immersed in Him and depending on Him for guidance and power.
- Our adoption as son of God, is a statement to our baptism and immersion in God's family as his children.
- Baptism is the very practical and real life effect of our new identity. We are immersed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we step out in faith to act as though it is indeed true of us.

APPLY

1. Review the core principles from the study.
2. Share your own personal reflections/convictions related to Jesus being the centerpiece of God's mission.
3. Lead others in identifying their view of Jesus in relationship to their lives and God's mission. The point here is to spur on some thinking that will allow the Holy Spirit to bring about some conviction.