



Week 4 Milestones

The Opening Question

Milestones are moments when something new, big, or different happens that points to an important memory but also to a better future. Think about the milestones you have had in your life, spiritually, physically, relationally, etc. Pick one of the most recent milestones you have experienced and share it with your group.

Watch the Video Clip

Key Teaching Points & Scripture

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment.

Why do we do it?

- Jesus did it.
Mark 1:9 (NIV) // At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- Jesus commanded it.
Matthew 28:19 (NIV) // 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,
- It's every believer's declaration of faith.
Acts 8:35-38 (NIV) // Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Why do we do it THAT WAY? Why do we DUNK?

- BAPTIZO means to dunk.
- Dunking symbolizes a burial and resurrection.
- When you get baptized, you tell the good news about Jesus and you tell the good news about a new you.
Romans 6:4 (NLT) // For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

When do we do it?

- As soon as you have believed.

NEXT STEPS: As a declaration of your faith in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation, be baptized.

Discussion Questions

What did you find helpful about today's teaching?

What did you find confusing or disagreeable about today's teaching?

If you have experienced believer's baptism, would you be willing to share your baptism story (take as many of these as you have time for)?

What lingering questions about baptism do you still have?

It seems that the new believers in the New Testament were highly motivated to immediately be baptized. Why do you think that is the case?

Although there are some folks who believe differently, the Bible as a whole does not teach that being baptized causes someone to be accepted by God and go to Heaven. If the act of baptism doesn't make you saved or make you a Christian, then why is it so important to do it?

If someone has not yet experienced believer's baptism and is willing to share, what holds you back from being baptized?

Bill described baptism as being like the "Zero Milestone" in Washington DC or the "Golden Milestone" in the ancient Roman empire. It's the place from which all other roads lead and are measured. What other spiritual milestones are there? What other spiritual milestones have you experienced?

We often celebrate and memorialize physical and life milestones. How can we or should we do this with spiritual milestones?

In what ways can spiritual milestones help us "become" what God has purposed us to be?

What is one milestone you see before you that you've not experienced yet, but you feel that God desires for you?

Pray

In your closing prayer together, pray for the answers of that last question. Pray for everyone in the room to be able to experience whatever next milestone God has for them. Also, take time to give God thanks for the milestones that have already been experienced. These are God-given blessings that we can't achieve on our own. And finally, ask God to help your group to encourage one another to experience more and more spiritual milestones together and to celebrate those together as God continues to grow each and every individual into what He desires each one to BECOME!