

**“What Baptism Means”**  
***Understanding Baptism Series***  
**Discussion Questions**

**1. What did you understand about baptism growing up?**

- Have you spoken with others who have different perspectives on baptism? What were those conversations like? What did you learn?
- How did your understanding of baptism shape what you thought about God, the church, etc.?

**2. Read 1 Peter 3:21.**

- What does Peter’s initial sentence seem to indicate?
- How does the latter part of this verse show that he is talking about something much deeper than merely a literal “washing sins away”?
- How does understanding this verse hinge upon “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”?
- If Jesus saves us and baptism doesn’t, why then is baptism such an important rite or ceremony in Christianity?
  - How can people have too small a view of baptism?
  - How can people have too large a view of baptism?

**3. Read Matthew 28:18-20.**

- What conclusions can we make about baptism in this verse? How did Jesus view its importance?
- What does it mean when some say baptism is the “first act of obedience”?

**4. What are some reasons people who profess to be Christian give for not being baptized?**

- What about baptism being a sign and seal of salvation make a case for not being baptized difficult?
- How does the analogy of a wedding ring parallel baptism? How can the sign represent the thing/object/event signified?
- In your own words, why would you say baptism is important?

**5. Which of the gospel identities does this most touch upon (citizen, family, missionary) and how can we as a small group encourage each other in living out this identity in our everyday life?**