



Literacy Check

- **Acts 8:26-40** - Phillip and the eunuch from Ethiopia
- **Isaiah 53:1-12** - Prophetic verse about the coming and mission of Jesus

Let's Break the Ice

What is something in your house you want to get rid of?
(No spouses or children!)

Introduction

On Sunday we celebrated with our families and friends a baptism event like few have experienced. Let's talk a bit about baptism and explore some of the thoughts, feelings, hindrances, and desires that baptism can create in us.

Heads Up!

Depending on the members of your group, you may have some people who have not been baptized yet or who have varied opinions that differ from you about what baptism means. Remember to be encouraging and to facilitate good conversation. Small groups should be a safe place to grow and share in the journey.

Things to Discuss

Have your group discuss some of the symbolism around baptism (dying to our old self, resurrection, etc.). What is your groups opinion about baptism? Is it necessary? When should someone be baptized? By who and how? For references (there are many!) check out **Matt 28:19** and **Rom 6:3-4**. Why is it important to be baptized in front of witnesses? Does it need to be a huge crowd (like a Sunday morning)?

Let's turn a bit more personal: Why is baptism so important in your life? If you've been baptized what stands out to you about the event? If you haven't been baptized, what is holding you back?

*As the eunuch in **Acts** asked, "There is water, why can't I be baptized?" There is no rule saying you can't baptize someone in your small group. Some questions that should be answered will help you discern if baptism is appropriate for him or her at this time:*

1. *Has this person professed that Jesus is their Savior (trusting in God)?*
2. *Have they professed that Jesus is their Lord (obeying God)?*
3. *This one can be tough: is transformative work taking place in their lives? That is to say, do you believe he or she has Jesus living inside of them.*

Wrapping Up

There is a lot to discuss and some of it can be difficult depending on upbringing and previous learning. Be gentle and encouraging as you pray for grace and love to flow in your group.