

Do you have a family tradition that carries great meaning...that makes you feel part of the family?

HAVE SOMEONE READ MARK 1:9-11 .

Jesus Himself was Baptized.

Why do we baptize? Jesus Himself did it.

- Because baptism with John was about repentance, why would Jesus seek to be baptized by John?
- How did Jesus' baptism help to identify Him with humankind?

HAVE SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 28:18-19 .

Jesus Himself Commanded us to Baptized.

- What did Jesus command His followers to do?
- Why was baptism included in Jesus' command to His followers?
- How would baptism help accomplish Jesus mission to the world?

Baptism is not about what you do for God. Baptism is about what God does for you. We often limit our explanation of baptism by saying that it is simply “an outward demonstration of an inward decision.” Publicly declaring your faith is certainly a part of it. It's very important to publicly proclaim that you're with Christ. But it doesn't get to heart of it. The public proclamation of your faith is still about what you are doing for God. But Baptism, at its very core, it's about what God does for you.

HAVE SOMEONE READ ROMANS 6:1-7, 10 .

Through baptism, **We Die. We Come Alive. We Belong**

- Looking specifically at Verse 10, how did Christ's death provide a substitution for us?
- How does this passage clearly indicate that baptism illustrates and celebrates the Gospel of Christ?
- How did baptism proclaim Christ to unbelievers who witnessed these events?
- Bonus Question: If baptism identifies us with Christ, what is the significance of us identifying with His death and resurrection?

HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13 Through baptism, **We Die. We Come Alive. We Belong**

- How does baptism signify the unity of Christ's body?

- **According to this passage, why was the Church intended to function as a body instead of individuals? What role has God created and equipped you for?**

Application

Have you been baptized?

- If not, what has held you back?
 - If yes, how can God use your baptism story to witness to others.
- If you have been baptized, try to recall that time in your life and discuss a response to each of these questions:
- 1. What was my life like before I was baptized?**
 - 2. Why did I choose to be baptized?**
 - 3. How has my life been different since my baptism?**