

**Peoples Church: Small Group Questions**  
**ONE BIG DAY**  
**May 28, 2017**  
**Speaker: Sean Smith**

**LOOKING BACK:** How important is your baptism?  
Review Acts 16:25-31

Baptism is your personal identification with the single greatest event in human history: the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this passage of Scripture, the entire household of a Philippian jailor gets saved, and *immediately* gets baptized. This man's conversion leads to the birth of a church in Philippi. It's a big deal!

There are two crises going on: the jailor's crisis, having allowed the prisoners to escape while he was asleep, he would surely be put to death. The Apostle Paul and Silas are unjustly imprisoned for casting a demon out of a woman. But a crisis is what can lead to a "pivot."

The principle of the "pivot": Paul had to make a shift in perspective. As Paul and Silas were shackled in prison, they began to sing praises to God. That's when things started to change—for them and the jailor.

1. Have you ever felt like you are one "pivot" away from life-change? What might that pivot be?
2. Paul and Silas were not the only prisoners whose shackles fell off—the rest of the prison had been freed as well, yet they did not run away. Why was that?

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Baptism—identification and sanctification.

Romans 6:5-7, "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin."

Water baptism is a transition. You get out of something to get into something.

3. Baptism is dying to what was, so we can come alive to what can be. If you've been baptized before, what was that experience like for you? What did you feel freed from?
4. If you haven't been baptized, how do you think a public declaration of your faith can symbolize what Jesus Christ has done in your life?
5. Sean Smith talked about how baptism makes it possible to "get what Jesus got without going through what Jesus went through." What does that statement mean?

**TAKING IT HOME:** Three pictures of baptism

6. Sean Smith talked about three pictures that come to mind when he thinks of baptism. Do you remember what pictures there were? Was there one picture that struck you the most?
  - A wedding ring—doesn't make you married. It is an outward sign of an inward commitment. Once we make a vow we should immediately "get the ring."

· When a woman is about to give birth, the water breaks. When we come out of the water, something new is being birthed in you.

· “The Egyptians you’ve seen before, you will see no more.” When you go into the baptism tank, there are a whole lot of things that have been chasing you. But when you come out of the water, everything that tormented and oppressed you will be drowned.