

REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED AND APPLIED

OPENING QUESTION

Talk about how your relationship with God began. If you're just beginning to explore Christianity, talk about that.

SCRIPTURE

Read John 3:1-8

BIG IDEAS

Today's big idea is this: **Baptism is the sign, sacrament, and seal of the redemption that Jesus accomplished.**

Last week, we celebrated Easter – the day which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On that day, we remember all that God has done to accomplish the redemption of his people.

Today, we'll consider (a) how that redemption is applied to us, and (b) what baptism means in that context.

How We're Saved

In the Scriptures, we're told that a relationship with God actually begins with God. He has planned, accomplished, and applies the redeeming work of Jesus to our lives.

>> Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does this passage describe how we are saved?

Having established that we are saved by grace through faith – that, through trusting Jesus to forgive our sin and be our Lord, it's now time to consider what, exactly, baptism is all about. The New City Catechism reads, "Q: What is baptism? A: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment belong to the Lord and to his church.

Baptism is a sign

Signs point to things. This sign points to the gospel, and everything God has done therein to save us. Here are four ways baptism points us to the gospel:

- **New Creation** - In Genesis 1:1-2 we read, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and

void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water." In his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus says that we must be born of "water and spirit." When the Pharisee heard this, he almost certainly thought of this passage, and Ezek 32:22-28. Baptism points to creation/new creation.

- **Death and Resurrection** - Rom 6:3-4

- **Purification** - Acts 22:16

- **Union with Christ & the Church** - Eph 4:4-6 says

>>Think on the significance of the gospel and baptism. Which one of these themes was surprising to you? What does this mean for you?

Baptism is a Sacrament

What is a sacrament? It's a commanded practice from Jesus that has a supernatural, spiritual significance for his church. It's an outward sign of inward faith. If you're really repented of sin and trusted Jesus to save us.

Baptism is a Seal

Finally, baptism is what marks you as a believer in Jesus – It's what marks you externally. It's what says, "I've gone public with my faith in Jesus." This is important because we need monuments. Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries... Moments to remember who we are.

>>Read Heb 10:22-23. How is baptism connected to our security?

>> Have you turned from sin, accepted Jesus as Lord and savior, and been baptized? If not, why not? What is keeping you from responding to the gospel right now?

PRAY

Take some time to pray for each other. Additionally, if there are members of your group who have not yet been baptized, ask if they're willing to sign up to be baptized. You can do so on the app.