

**BAPTISM**

March 16-17, 2019  
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**WARM-UP**

We have all been through at least one milestone ceremony or celebration in our lifetime that carried significant meaning. Name one of yours.

**INTRODUCTION**

- ⇒ If you have been in a Red Cedar group for a while, you may have shared your baptism experience before. But it's likely that not everyone has heard your story. So let's share!
- When were you baptized?
  - How did you know you wanted to be baptized and why?
  - What was the experience like?
  - If you have not yet made the choice to be baptized, what is it that is holding you back from making that decision?

**Read Acts 2:38-41**

- ⇒ What is the prerequisite for baptism according to this passage (verses 38 and 41)?
- ⇒ How would you define what it means to "believe" as it is presented here?
- ⇒ It might seem obvious, but what was it that the people believed in, as mentioned in verses 38 and 41?

**Read the account in Acts 16:25-34.**

- ⇒ What was the first step of the jailer toward being saved?
- ⇒ Why do you think it was significant that he acted immediately?
- How can we use this to help explain or show others about the intention of baptism?

**Read Galatians 3:26-29.**

- What does this verse compare baptism to?

**BIBLE APPLICATION****Read 1 Peter 3:20-22, Colossians 2:12 and Romans 6: 3-5**

- ⇒ Who do we identify with when we are baptized?
- ⇒ What story does baptism tell without words?
- ⇒ If baptism itself doesn't bring salvation, why do we get baptized?
- ⇒ We baptize people by immersion in water. Why do you think we do that?

**Matthew 28:19** says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

- ⇒ Why do you think Jesus wanted his followers to get baptized?

Belief means recognizing that Jesus's life, death, and resurrection matter for you, personally. After you trust Jesus with the direction of your life, baptism is a statement that shows a picture of transformation.

- How has Jesus changed you since you believed and were baptized?
- What hang-ups do you think some people have about taking the step to be baptized?
- In **Luke 9:26**, what warning is given to those who indicated they wanted to follow Jesus, but were ashamed to let others know?
- How might this potentially apply to baptism?

**NEXT STEPS / ACTION****Read Romans 1:16**

- ⇒ What inspiration and instruction can we receive from this verse?

**Read Mark 16:15-18**

- ⇒ When we believe and are baptized, what is the next step we should take as a believer in Christ?
- ⇒ What are some areas or places where you need to be bolder, to take a stand for your faith?
- ⇒ Why is this so hard to do?

Baptism is about community. That's why we do baptisms during worship and why the congregation participates in the ceremony.

- ⇒ Since your baptism, how have you continued to grow in community with other Christians?
- ⇒ How could you continue to increase your growth in and through Christian community?

**PRAYER**

Pray for everyone who took a step of obedience in baptism this past weekend. Pray for their continued spiritual growth, and for opportunities to grow spiritually along with other Christians.

- ⇒ **Leaders: note items marked with the arrows are key discussion questions if you're short on time.**

