

# C<sup>1</sup> onechurch

## bigIdea

Have you gone public with your relationship with Jesus? Have you been baptized? Why not? Many times, we become Christian Atheists because we say we believe in God, but we keep our association with Jesus a secret.

There tends to be a lot of confusion surrounding baptism. And while the topic often evokes strong emotions, it is not a subject in which people have much to draw from, other than their own experience. For this reason we will spend some time exploring what the Bible has to say about baptism.



**BIG IDEA:** Baptizing is Advertising Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the craziest thing you have done to associate yourself with a group of people or a sports team?
2. Have you been baptized? What was your experience?
3. What was your understanding of baptism in the environment you grew up in?
4. *Read Matthew 3:1-17 and John 3:22-4:2.* Baptism, with its roots in Jewish ceremonial cleansing, was for John and Jesus a public declaration of a brand new association. Why did Jesus consider it important for people to be baptized (Matthew 28:19)?
5. Who should be baptized? Infants, children, adults?
6. What is the connection between baptism and salvation? Is baptism necessary for salvation?
7. Is the method of baptism important? Why or why not?
8. What is the value in the method of baptism used at your church?
9. Besides your baptism, in what other ways do you regularly make a public stand for Christ?
10. You were buried with Christ in baptism (or will be). You're old nature is dead. You have life in Christ. Describe what that means to you daily.

### THINK ABOUT IT

Think about the countless people who have shared in the Christian practice of baptism, from a remote tribe in Pakistan to a mega-church in Atlanta, GA. How does it make you feel to be connected in this way, not only with Christ, but also with Christians throughout the centuries?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Have you gone forward with your faith? Are you ready to be baptized? If so, sign up at the Hub next Sunday to be baptized. We baptize the first Sunday of every month.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized. Acts 18:8*