



# Discipleship Guide

*Sermon: The Power of Baptism | Baptism Sunday*

*Speaker: Pastor John Eric*

Date: August 17, 2025

## Key Takeaways

- Baptism is a public declaration of faith and commitment to follow Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live out their faith boldly.
- God's love and grace can transform lives, even in the midst of pain and struggles.
- The church plays a crucial role in supporting and encouraging new believers.
- Revival starts within the church before it can spread to the wider community.

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## Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from the baptism testimonies shared during the service? How did they impact you personally?
2. The sermon mentioned Philip's obedience in sharing the gospel. How can we cultivate that same willingness to share our faith with others?
3. Many of the baptism candidates spoke about overcoming difficult circumstances. How has your faith helped you through challenging times?
4. The pastor emphasized the importance of understanding Scripture and having a personal relationship with God. What practices help you grow in your

understanding of the Bible and closeness to God?

5. The sermon touched on the concept of being "born again" through baptism. What does this mean to you, and how does it apply to your daily life?
6. How can our small group create an environment where people feel comfortable exploring faith and asking questions, like the Ethiopian eunuch did with Philip?
7. The pastor spoke about a revival movement in Chicago. What do you think revival might look like in our community? How can we participate in that?

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## **Practical Applications:**

1. **Share Your Story:** Take time this week to write down your personal faith journey. Be prepared to share a 2-3 minute version with the group next time we meet.
2. **Scripture Study:** Choose a passage from the book of Acts (like the story of Philip and the Ethiopian) to read and reflect on daily this week.
3. **Prayer for Revival:** Commit to praying daily for spiritual renewal in your own life and in our community.
4. **Invite and Encourage:** Identify someone in your life who might be seeking or questioning faith. Invite them to a church service or offer to have a conversation about spiritual matters with them.
5. **Serve Others:** Look for practical ways to demonstrate God's love in your neighborhood or workplace this week. Be ready to share how this impacted you and others at our next meeting.
6. **Support New Believers:** If you know someone who was recently baptized or is new to faith, reach out to encourage them and offer support in their spiritual journey.
7. **Explore Spiritual Gifts:** Reflect on how God might be calling you to use your talents and passions to serve in the church or community. Discuss with the group how you can take a step towards this.

## 5-Day Devotionals

### Day 1: Embracing God's Love

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Devotional: God's love is the foundation of our faith. In the transcription, we see multiple examples of individuals experiencing God's transformative love, even in their darkest moments. Today's reading reminds us that God is love, and His love casts out fear. Reflect on how God's love has touched your life. Have you, like some of the baptism candidates, felt God's presence when you were at your lowest? Remember that God's love is not earned but freely given. How can you extend this unconditional love to others today?

### Day 2: The Power of Faith

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with God. The transcription shows many people taking steps of faith through baptism and dedicating their lives to Christ. Hebrews 11 defines faith and gives examples of faithful believers. Consider your own faith journey. What steps of faith is God calling you to take? It might be sharing your testimony, serving in a new ministry, or trusting God in a difficult situation. Remember, faith isn't about having all the answers, but trusting in God's faithfulness.

### Day 3: Salvation and New Life in Christ

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: The theme of new life in Christ is prevalent throughout the transcription, especially in the baptism testimonies. Romans 6 speaks of our new life in Christ, comparing baptism to dying with Christ and being raised to new life. Reflect on your own salvation experience. How has your life changed since accepting Christ? If you haven't yet, consider taking the step of baptism as a public declaration of your faith. For those already baptized, how can you live out your new identity in Christ today?

### Day 4: Hope in Times of Suffering

Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Devotional: Many testimonies in the transcription speak of finding hope and strength in God during difficult times. Romans 5 reminds us that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. Think about a challenging situation you're facing. How can you see God working through this difficulty? Remember that our hope in Christ is an anchor for our souls, steadfast and sure. Ask God to fill you with hope today, and consider how you can be a beacon of hope to others who are struggling.

Day 5: Experiencing God's Presence

Reading: Psalm 139:1-18

Devotional: The transcription emphasizes God's constant presence, even when we feel far from Him. Psalm 139 beautifully illustrates God's omnipresence and intimate knowledge of us. Meditate on the truth that God is always with you, knowing your thoughts and guiding your path. How does this change your perspective on your daily life? Take time to be still and aware of God's presence. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you anew, just as the pastor prayed for the congregation. How can you cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence in your everyday life?