

## Baptism: an ILLUSTRATION of God's Resurrection Story

### Acts 2:36-40 (NIV)

"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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**Big Idea: Jesus offers real, eternal life, a better life than you ever imagined.**  
John 10:10b (The Msg)

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### Baptism is a:

- RESPONSE to the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

### What is the GOSPEL?

- **God** created us to be with Him. (Ps 100:3, Eph 2:10)
- **Our** sins separate us from God (Isa 59:2, Rom 3:23, 6:23)
- **Sins** cannot be removed by good deeds. (Isa 64:6, Rom 3:20)
- **Paying** the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. (1 Pet 3:18, Eph 1:7)
- **Everyone** who trusts in Him has eternal life. (Mk 16:16, Rom 10:13, 1 Cor 6:11)
- **Life** with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (Jn 3:16, 5:54, 10:9-10)

### Baptism is:

- a PUBLIC declaration of a new association.
- a PERSONAL declaration of a new association.
- *not* a CONDITION of salvation.
- an EVIDENCE of a personal decision to follow Jesus.

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## Discuss and Apply

*Use the following questions to help you formulate age-appropriate questions to stimulate conversation that matter. Please share your ideas and experiences with us at [connect@manna.church](mailto:connect@manna.church).*

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1. Have you trusted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? If not, can you articulate your reasons or objections?
  2. If so, consider sharing your salvation story with your family and friends. Your journey may be just the encouragement others need to receive faith and grace.
  3. Have you publicly demonstrated your faith through water baptism? If so, talk about your experience, share your memories. What was the journey like? If your answer is NO, what do you feel is hindering your decision?
  4. Why not create a memory in your journal or social media timeline – share your faith journey with others.
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## Prayer

"Dear Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned and need your forgiveness. I believe that You lived, died, and rose again so that I could be connected to God. I confess you as my Lord and commit my life to You. I give you my past, present and future. Take my life and use it. I give it to You. Amen."

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## At Manna We Believe

Water baptism is a beautiful picture of what our Lord has done for us. Our immersion in the water, symbolizes burial with our Lord; we are baptized into His death on the cross and are no longer slaves to self or sin (Romans 6:3–7). When we are raised out of the water, we are symbolically resurrected -- raised to new life in Christ to be with Him forever, born into the family of our loving God (Romans 8:16). Baptism also expresses unity with all the saints (Ephesians 2:19), that is, with every person in every nation on earth who is a member of the Body of Christ (Galatians 3:27–28). Water baptism does not save us. Instead, we are saved by grace through faith, apart from works (Ephesians 2:8–9). We are baptized because our Lord commanded it: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).