

MATTHEW 28:18-20

BURIED + RAISED + SENT

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

BIG IDEA

Because Jesus commands His followers to make disciples, every believer should joyfully identify with Christ through baptism, and every church should faithfully carry out His mission in biblical unity.

BAPTISM IS CHRIST'S COMMAND FOR EVERY BELIEVER

- What is the purpose of baptism and why is baptism an act of obedience instead of a requirement for salvation? (e.g. Acts 16:14-15; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 2:12)
- Why was Jesus baptized, even though He had no sin, and why did Jesus include baptism as part of the Great Commission? (e.g. Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20)
- Discuss this statement: Baptism is an act of obedience, a picture of the Gospel, and a testimony of faith.

BAPTISM IS THE CHURCH'S CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE

- Why are baptism and the Lord's Supper the two ordinances of the church and why is it best for those things to be done within the context of a local body of believers? (e.g. Ephesians 4:4-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- What does baptism communicate about our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and why is it important for believers to publicly identify with Christ instead of keeping their faith private? (e.g. Romans 6:3-4)
- Why did Jesus never baptize (i.e. John 4:1-2) and why did Paul minimize the role of the baptizer? (e.g. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

BAPTISM UNIFIES THE CHURCH AROUND CHRIST'S MISSION

- Why and how do baptisms often strengthen and encourage the entire church, not just the person being baptized? (e.g. Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Why is preserving the unity of the church so important when working through difficult biblical questions? (e.g. Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-5)
- Baptism is sometimes a debated subject, especially among other denominations. How can believers hold strong biblical convictions on primary issues, while extending humility, patience, and love toward one another where there is disagreement on secondary and tertiary doctrines? (e.g. Ephesians 4:1-6, 15; Philippians 2:1-5; Colossians 3:12-15; Romans 14:19)