



An Epiphany is defined as a "manifestation," or "a moment of sudden insight."

Study By Andrew Farhat

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- What was your definition of a righteous person growing up?

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Matthew 3:13-17
- Professor Jeffrey Gibbs of Concordia Seminary indicates that when Jesus said: "It is fitting for us to fulfill all 'righteousness'" (Matt. 3:15), Jesus was referring to the "saving deeds that God performs on behalf of His people, and in that sense often stands in parallel to 'salvation.'" Have one person from your group read aloud Psalm 71:2, 15, 16, 19, and 24 to see this background. According to the angel that spoke to Joseph, Jesus' mission is to save people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Jesus was baptized by John (the same baptism sinners were undergoing) to affirm His identity with sinners and provide them with perfect righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says: "He became sin, who knew no sin, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus is perfectly righteous and He gifts us with His righteousness as well.
- Galatians and Romans make it clear that we are declared righteous before God by faith in finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

- When you wake up in the morning, how do you think God feels about you?
- When you do something that is sinful, do you sometimes believe that God may not see you as righteous before Him anymore?
- Jesus was affirmed as the Bearer and Giver of the Spirit at His Baptism. In John 15:26, Jesus says: “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, *he will bear witness about me.*” How does the Holy Spirit work in your life to point you to the finished work of Jesus on your behalf?
- 1 John 1:9 says: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” How does confession work to both give you the experience and assurance of your forgiveness before God?
- What are some ways you can practice gratitude for the righteousness that Jesus has already gifted to you?
- In Christian Baptism that Jesus instituted (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16), He gifts us with the Spirit (Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5, this is the main difference between His baptism and John’s) and clothes us with His righteousness (Galatians 3:27). What are some ways to practice gratitude for the gift of baptism in your life? If you have not been baptized and are a believer in Christ, could that be the next step God is calling on you to right now?

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
 - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you’ve encountered it in this week’s Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
 - What’s an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
 - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How’s your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you’re building and spiritual conversations you’re having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
 - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:
_____.
 - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
 - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?