

NOTES:

NEXT STEPS

Prayer: Pray for friends and family members that have not yet reached a point of repentance.

Encouragement: Take time to look back on your baptism and recount everything it means to you as a believer; or look forward to your baptism soon to come!

Conversation: Share the story of your baptism with someone new this week. Let them be encouraged by your testimony.

Journaling: Write out your favourite verse about baptism and commit it to memory.

Worship: Commit to attending the first baptism service you can. Baptisms are an encouragement to the whole church, and everyone present joins in that worship.



ACTS 2:37-41

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptised 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.³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Colossians 2:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.



QUESTIONS



Read ACTS 2:37-41. From this text answer the questions:

What action is required on our part before baptism? _____

What does God do in response? _____

What gift do we receive? _____

Do we receive the gift with baptism, or with forgiveness? Is it clear from this text? _____

To what were "three thousands souls" added to that day?



Discuss the presence in this text of the two main themes that lay behind baptism, repentance and belonging, or membership. How are the two connected? How does baptism symbolize both?



Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-2. According to Paul, Baptism is not a new idea to God at all. How does Paul describe the baptism of the nation of Israel with Moses? Read 1 Peter 3:20-21. How does Peter see baptism symbolized in the days of Noah?



Read Colossians 2:11-12. More specifically now, what Old Testament sign of covenant does Paul equate baptism to? How did the Old Testament sign signify membership/belonging. What was it membership or identification with? At what time was it performed?



Read Acts 2:42, 8:12, 22:16. According to these texts, who were the people that were baptized, and when did this take place? What differences can you describe between the Old Testament sign of belonging and the New Testament sign?

The Greek word βαπτίζω (*baptizo*) literally means to plunge, submerge or immerse. It later became a technical term that referred specifically to the Christian ordinance of baptism.



Since the times of the early church, there have been different interpretations and applications of baptism both in method and in timing. Discuss a few different baptism traditions that exist in Catholic and Protestant denominations. How do each of them compare so far to what the New Testament has described?



Read Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27 What do these two texts say are an important reality of our baptism? Who do we belong to and identify with according to these texts? What are 4 or 5 ways that plays itself out practically in our lives?



Baptisms are an encouraging reminder to the whole church of the finished work that Christ has done for every believer. Share with the group your own baptism story. When did it take place? What was the testimony you gave at your baptism? If you delayed getting baptized, what are some of the reasons you held back? What are some wrong reasons to avoid baptism?



If you have never been baptized, what is holding you back? Contact Pastor Paul for more information and to have a conversation about an opportunity to be baptized soon.