



Connect: discussion guide

“Baptism – Identification with Christ”

31st August 2025

WELCOME: Last week we explored the concept of “Dedication to God” – both the dedication of a child and how we might support families and dedicating ourselves as Christians to God’s service – this week we are considering Baptism. Baptism is more than just a church tradition; it is a declaration that we belong to Jesus. In baptism we identify with His sacrifice and commit to live a new life in Christ.

1. If it’s good enough for Jesus...

Read Matt 3:13-17

Key Points: Jesus was baptized, not because He needed forgiveness, but to set an example. In His baptism, we see the Father’s approval, the Son’s obedience, and the Spirit’s empowerment..

- Why do you think Jesus insisted on being baptized, even though He was without sin?
- What do you notice about the way the Father and Spirit affirmed Jesus in this moment?
- How does Jesus’ baptism encourage you when you think of your own baptism and the baptism in the Service?

2. Jesus said we should do it too...

Read Matthew 28:18–19

Key Points: Baptism is part of Jesus’ Great Commission; it is part of every believer’s journey. What Jesus experienced at His baptism (Father, Son, Spirit) is what He wants for everyone who follows Him.

- Why do you think Jesus connects baptism so closely with making disciples?
- How does baptism show both obedience and belonging?
- If baptism is part of every believer’s journey, what does that mean for us and our church today?

3. Responding to Jesus...

Read Acts 2:37–39

Key Points: The crowd asked, “What shall we do?” Peter responded: Repent, turn to God, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. Repentance is not just feeling sorry—it’s a change of direction, a whole new perspective and way of life

- What do you think repentance looks like in everyday life?
- Why do you think baptism was included in Peter’s call to respond?
- How have you personally experienced a “new direction” since following Jesus?

4. Symbolic Significance...

Read Romans 6:3–5; Galatians 3:26–27; Ephesians 2:8–9

Key Points: Baptism is a symbol: burial with Christ and resurrection to new life. Baptism doesn’t save us—salvation is by grace through faith—but it declares what God has done. Baptism is like putting on new clothes, marking a new identity in Christ

- How does baptism picture both death and resurrection?
- Why is it important to remember that baptism is not a way of earning salvation?
- What does it mean to you personally to be “clothed with Christ”?

5. Welcome to Church...

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–13

Key Points: Baptism unites us into one body—the church. Jesus celebrates our differences and uses them to build His community. Baptism is not just a personal step—it connects us with God’s family

- How does baptism connect us not only to Jesus but also to His church?
- In what ways does diversity strengthen the body of Christ?
- How can we better welcome and encourage those who are newly baptised?

Because of what God has done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, baptism is our public declaration: I belong to Jesus, I’ve been made new, and I’m part of His church.

Final Question: If someone asked you, “Why should I be baptized?”—how would you answer in your own words?

Pray together:

Father God, we thank You that you so love humanity you gave... Jesus your son for our salvation. We thank you for the example of his baptism and the call to all who would follow Jesus to be baptised and become one in Christ. We pray that our LIFEgroup and Connect church family will be people united in Christ, people who reflect the character of Jesus – that we will be dynamic and gracious, considerate and calm, that we will share your wisdom and point others towards your kingdom. We pray we would be people who “wear Kingdom glasses,” – seeing people as Jesus sees them, beginning with our own church family – we pray we’d begin there but then take the overflow of your love to the community around us. We pray that we would see people come to know you, walk by faith and not by sight, be empowered by the Spirit and baptised as a sign of surrender to you, and we pray these things in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.