

Discussion Guide

June 8, 2025

The Early Church Week 2

The Water Still Works

Pastor Daniel Groves

Main Idea

Baptism is more than a ritual; it's a supernatural moment where heaven meets earth and your faith goes public. From Jesus stepping into the Jordan to the fire falling at Pentecost, baptism has marked movements of God. The early church didn't separate salvation from obedience; they believed, repented, and were baptized immediately. The water still works, and it still marks us today.

Anchor Passage

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

1. Baptism Isn't Just a Ritual—It's Revival

Read: Acts 2:2–4; Acts 2:38–41

- **Key Insight:** What began in the Upper Room spilled out into the streets, where 3,000 were baptized the same day.
- **Question:** Why do you think baptism was followed immediately after salvation in the early church?

2. Jesus Got In—So I’m Getting In

Read: *Matthew 3:13–17*

- **Key Insight:** Jesus didn’t need cleansing, but He stepped into the water to model obedience and identify with us.
- **Question:** What does Jesus’ baptism teach us about humility and obedience?

3. Baptism Is Where Your Faith Goes Public

Read: *Romans 10:9–10; Romans 6:4 (NIV)*

- **Key Insight:** Salvation is a heart decision; baptism is the public declaration that you belong to Jesus.
- **Question:** How has your understanding of baptism changed since you first heard about it?

4. God Prepared the Place, Now He’s Waiting on Your Yes

Read: *Acts 2:41*

- **Key Insight:** The mikvehs used for ritual cleansing became the very place where thousands were baptized. God took what was old and used it for something new.
- **Question:** What’s holding you back from taking the next step in faith, and how can the group pray for you?

SUMMARY

Pastor Daniel reminded us that baptism is not just symbolic; it’s supernatural. From Jesus’ baptism to the Upper Room to the streets of Jerusalem, we see that when God moves, obedience follows. Baptism is where your old life is buried and your new life begins. It’s not about perfection, it’s about surrender. The same water that marked revival then still works now.

CALL TO ACTION

Reflect: Have you been baptized since deciding to follow Jesus? If not, what's holding you back?

Respond: If the Holy Spirit is nudging you, don't delay. Say, "I'm all in," and take the next step in obedience.

Celebrate: Encourage others in your group who are taking bold steps of faith and go celebrate with them.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Activity: Baptize or Backtrack?"

A fun, fast-paced game to break the ice and get people thinking about their next steps.

How to Play:

Read a scenario and have the group call out "Baptize!" if it reflects obedience or transformation, or "Backtrack!" if it shows hesitation or fear.

Sample Scenarios:

- "He got saved and signed up to be baptized the same day."
- "She's been a believer for five years but says she's waiting for the perfect moment."
- "He felt the Spirit move during worship and said, 'Let's go, I'm all in!'"
- "She said she needs to clean up her life before she gets baptized."
- "They showed up with towels, t-shirts, and goggles ready for revival!"

Debrief Question:

What's one area where God might be saying, "Don't wait, move now"?