



A New Community

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Immersed*, we will discover the who, the how, and the why of water baptism.

DISCUSSION

Water baptism always results in transformation. It is a sign of cleansing, as well as an initiation into a new and a fresh season. We see all three distinct baptisms in **1 John 5:8: *And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.*** All three are unique experiences, yet all are in perfect agreement.

- What stood out to you in this series so far?

What does Water Baptism do?

1. Water Baptism connects us with the death and resurrection of Christ.
Colossians 2:12: *Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*
2. Water Baptism clears our conscience.
1 Peter 3:2: *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
 - We know that confessing Jesus as our Lord and Savior is the only way we are saved (Romans 10:9). So, how do you think Water Baptism clears our conscience?
3. Water Baptism publicly identifies us with God's spiritual family.
1 Corinthians 12:13: *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

- How does water baptism show you're a part of a new community?
- How has spiritual family impacted you since you became a Christian?

The Who, The How, and The Why of Water Baptism:

1. The Who

All who confess Christ as Lord and Savior should be water baptized. Before you get baptized, you should be able to exercise your faith to repent of your sin and to believe in Jesus. **Acts 2:38** says: ***Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."***

- Why is it important that we are truly saved before we get water baptized?
- Why do you think Jesus was baptized? What happened to Jesus right after He was baptized?

2. The How

In Water Baptism, we are to be put completely under the water and brought back up, symbolizing our death, burial, and resurrection to a new and eternal life with Christ. The Bible also encourages us to get water baptized immediately after we become believers. **Acts 2:41: Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.** The believers here were baptized right after they came into relationship with Jesus!

3. The Why

Right after Jesus was resurrected from the dead, He came to His disciples and shared the Great Commission. **Mark 16:15-16: And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved;** You don't have to be water baptized to go to Heaven. Yet, why would you want to go through this life without the amazing benefits of Water Baptism? Water Baptism is a symbol of our escape from judgment. Water Baptism is not about heaven and hell; it's about fully identifying with Christ and His Family on the Earth.

- Have you been water baptized since you dedicated or rededicated your life to Christ?

LIFE CHALLENGE

If your small group members have dedicated or rededicated their lives to Christ and haven't been water baptized, encourage them to do so! To register for water baptism, text **baptism** to **822822**.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER