

# “Baptism Weekend”

## INTRODUCTION

One of the privileges we have as a congregation is celebrating along with those being baptized in our weekend services. Depending on your personal history, you may associate baptism with sprinkling or dunking, a somber observance or a boisterous celebration. Whatever your experience with baptism has been, it is important for us to understand the meaning and significance of baptism.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Share a little with your group about your own baptism experience.

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Join TheGreat Commission**

#### **Q1. Read Matthew 28:18-20**

In the last chapter of Matthew, after His resurrection, Jesus gives his disciples some very important instructions, commonly referred to as “The Great Commission.” What was it He instructed his disciples to do? His instructions are prefaced with the word “therefore.” What is “therefore” referring back to? (Matt 28:18) Jesus’ unlimited authority empowers us to extend the good news to others, that on His authority, fulness of life, forgiveness and resurrection are available to those who follow Jesus. What was the public display expected of those who make a decision to follow Jesus? (v.19)

### **Become someone new, don’t just do something new**

#### **Q2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26-28**

How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 characterize someone who has chosen to follow Jesus? We are not the same old person trying to be outwardly different. Our very nature has changed. One facet of our new life in Christ, symbolized through baptism, is that we become unified as members of God’s family. What are some of the barriers to unity that are removed when we become God’s children? (see Galatians 3:28) What are some of the barriers you find that make it difficult to feel unity with other believers? What are some steps you can take to overcome those barriers?

### **Declare Your New Identity**

#### **Q3. Read Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-13; Colossians 3:5-16**

The act of baptism is the public declaration of your new identity in Christ. How do Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12 explain the meaning of our going down under the water and being raised out of the water of baptism? Colossians 3:5-9 gives us insight into what is being put to death when we are baptized. Which items on this list do feel are most difficult to remain dead to? Are there any areas you would like to partner with someone in your group to help you “put to death” through prayer, encouragement and accountability? Now find in verses 12 – 14 one attitude and action that you have seen come notably alive in you since you committed your life to Christ.

## Wrap-Up

Following Jesus is about becoming someone new not just doing something new. He wants to take us from death to life. When we dip beneath the water we are publicly proclaiming that we have put to death the old selfish life in exchange for the new life we live through Jesus. Just as He was raised out of the grave, so we are raised to live a new life in Christ because He empowers us to live it.

## Memory Verse

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*  
Romans 6:4 NIV

## Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:

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**Challenge:** Look for an opportunity to declare your faith to someone this week.

