



Kamloops

ALLIANCE CHURCH

Baptism

*"To be passionate followers of Jesus,
and help others to be the same."*

The Doctrine of Baptism

Goals ...

On completing this unit you should be able to:

1. Understand how those living in New Testament times understood baptism;
2. Be able to explain the significance of John the Baptist's Ministry;
3. Know in brief the events in Jesus' Baptism;
4. Understand that the Bible teaches that all Christians are to be baptized; and
5. Respond in obedience to the Bible's instruction to be baptized.

Introduction

1. Welcome to our study on baptism. The five lessons which follow are designed to help you understand what the Bible teaches about baptism.
2. As we will see, baptism is a necessary step for each and every Christian.
3. We will begin by considering what baptism meant to the people living in Jesus' day. We will then look at what Jesus did and said concerning baptism
4. As you work through these lessons, please write any questions or comments you have in the book so we can discuss them together in our class!
5. For further readings see Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:9-13.

Lesson One: John the Baptist

- 1.1 In Mark 1: 2-3, Mark records the prophet Isaiah's prediction concerning the coming of "a messenger." Isaiah predicted that a "messenger" would be sent to prepare the way for Jesus. Isaiah had written these words hundreds of years before John the Baptist was born.

Place a ✓ beside the statements which are true.

Exercise: Read Mark 1:1-8 in your Bible. Underline the words and phrases in your Bible: "*baptism, repentance, forgiveness, confessing their sins.*"

- a. _____ Isaiah predicted that John the Baptist would be a messenger
- b. _____ Isaiah predicted that a messenger would prepare the way for Jesus
- c. _____ Isaiah predictions were made hundreds of years before John the Baptist was born.
- 1.2 In Mark 1:4 we read that John the Baptist was "*preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*" John the Baptist was teaching people that they must turn from their sinful ways and follow the ways of God. They were also taught to confess their sins. If they agreed with what John the Baptist was teaching they were baptized in the Jordan River.

John taught people to _____ from their _____ ways and _____ the ways of God. If they agreed and _____ their sins, John _____ them in the Jordan River.

Did you know?

Several religious groups practiced baptism before John the Baptist was born? The Hebrews baptized Gentiles who wanted to join the Jewish church. Another religious group, the Essenes, baptized people who wanted to join their group.

- 1.3 Both the Jews and the Essenes baptized their converts to symbolize spiritual cleansing and as an act of initiation into their group.

Repentance: means to acknowledge and turn from our sin.

How do we know this?

Which of the following are reasons why the Jews and the Essenes baptized their converts. (Place a ✓ next to the correct answers)

- a. _____ to wash their hair
- b. _____ as an act of initiation
- c. _____ to symbolize spiritual cleansing
- d. _____ to test their swimming

1.4 In Mark 1:7-8 John the Baptist predicted that “*one more powerful than I*” will come. Who do you think that John was speaking about?

1.5 Fill in the blanks to complete the following statements.

- a. Isaiah predicted that a _____ would prepare the way for _____.
- b. That messenger was _____ the _____.
- c. John the Baptist taught people to _____ from their sinful ways and confess their _____.
- d. If they did as John the Baptist said, they were _____ in the _____ River.

1.6 Earlier we learned that baptism was being practised by at least two other groups during the time that John the Baptist lived. Who were these other two groups?

The _____ and the _____ baptized their converts during the time of John the Baptist.

- 1.7 Isaiah predicted that *"a messenger"* would come to prepare the way for another. John the Baptist was that messenger. John the Baptist predicted that *"one more powerful"* than him would come. That person was Jesus.

How do we know this?

Place a ✓ beside the statements which are true.

- a. _____ John the Baptist was the Messenger predicted by the prophet Isaiah
- b. _____ Jesus was the *"one more powerful"* predicted by John the Baptist.

We have already learned that people living in Jesus' day would have been familiar with baptism. We have also learned who John the Baptist was and what he taught.

Now we are going to look at what Jesus did concerning baptism.

Lesson Two: The Baptism of Jesus

- 2.1 Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John the Baptist. John the Baptist did not want to baptize Jesus because he knew that Jesus was the *“one more powerful.”*

Exercise: Read Matthew 3:13-17 in your Bible. Underline the word “baptized” each time it appears in these verses.

Jesus came from _____ to be _____ by John the Baptist. John did not want to _____ Jesus because he knew that _____ was the *“one more powerful.”*

- 2.2 After a short conversation, John the Baptist was convinced that he should baptize Jesus. Jesus was then baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Place a “T” in the space to indicate the statements which are true and an “F” to indicate the statements which are false.

- a. _____ John the Baptist came from Galilee to be baptized by Jesus
- b. _____ John the Baptist baptized Jesus immediately -- without hesitation
- c. _____ Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist
- d. _____ John the Baptist was the “messenger” predicted by Isaiah
- e. _____ Jesus was the “one more powerful” predicted by John the Baptist.
- 2.3 Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. After coming up out of the water, a dove landed (vs. 16 “lighting”) on Jesus. Then a voice from heaven declared, *“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

Jesus was baptized in the _____ River. After he came up out the water a _____ landed on him and a voice from heaven declared, "This is my _____, whom I love; with him I am _____."

Discussion question 1

In Matthew 3:16-17 what was the significance of the Dove and who was behind the voice from heaven?

- 2.4 The fact that Jesus chose to be baptized tells us that Jesus thought that baptism was important. We also know that God was "well pleased" with Jesus' decision to be baptized.

Place a ✓ beside the statements which are true.

- a. _____ Jesus was forced to be baptized
- b. _____ Jesus chose to be baptized
- c. _____ God was "well pleased" with Jesus' choice to be baptized
- d. _____ as Jesus came up out to the water a dove landed on him.

- 2.5 Match the phrases or words with the Bible verse in which they are found: (Write the correct letter beside the matching number)

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| _____ 1. the story of John the Baptist's ministry | a. Mark 1:7 | d. Mark 1:1-8 |
| _____ 2. the story of Jesus' baptism | b. Mark 1:2 | e. Matthew 3:13-17 |
| _____ 3. Isaiah predicts the "messenger" | c. Matthew 3:16 | f. Mark 1:4 |
| _____ 4. John the Baptist taught people to turn from their sin | | |
| _____ 5. a dove lands on Jesus | | |
| _____ 6. "one more powerful than I" will come | | |

As we have seen, Jesus thought that baptism was important enough that he was baptized himself.

We will now consider what Jesus taught about baptism. We will then examine what the disciples and the early church practiced concerning baptism.

Lesson Three: What Jesus Taught About Baptism

Exercise: Read Matthew 28:16-20 in your Bible. Under line the words “*baptizing them*” in your Bible.

- 3.1 In Matthew 28:16-20 we read the last words Jesus spoke to his disciples. Jesus told his disciples that they were to go to “*all nations*” (all people on earth) and to “*make disciples*” (tell people the Gospel message and train them to become followers of Jesus).

In his last message to his disciples, Jesus commanded them to “go to _____
_____” and to “_____ *disciples*.” By “*all nations*” Jesus meant
all _____ on earth. When he commanded them to “*make disciples*” he
meant that they should tell people the Gospel message so that they could
_____ followers of _____.

- 3.2 But Jesus’ instructions did not stop there. Jesus also told his disciples that they should baptize others who would become disciples of Jesus.

Place a ✓ beside the statements which are true.

- a. _____ Jesus commanded his disciples to “*make disciples of all nations*”
- b. _____ Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize all those who became his disciples

- 3.3 Fill in the blanks to complete the following Bible verse. Use your Bible if necessary.

“*Therefore go and _____ of all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*” (Matthew 28:19)

Exercise: Take the time to memorize Matthew 28:19 so that you can write it out without using your Bible.

Lesson Four: What The Disciples Practised Concerning Baptism

Did you know?

We will discover in this lesson that the disciples took Jesus' words concerning baptism very seriously. We will now study several Bible stories which show the disciples baptizing those who became Christians.

Peter In Jerusalem

- 4.1 Read in your Bible Acts 2:14-41. This is the story of Peter's great sermon in Jerusalem. Pay careful attention to verse 38 and fill in the blanks to complete the following sentence.

Peter replied, "*Repent and be _____, _____ of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.*"

- 4.2 We see in this passage that Peter had taken the last words of Jesus very seriously. As Peter preached to this large crowd he proclaimed that they should repent and be baptized.

Like John the Baptist, Peter commanded his audience to _____ and be _____.

- 4.3 Now re-read Acts 2:41. Notice how the crowd responded to Peter's preaching. Based on what you read in verse 41, place a beside all the true statements below.

- a. the people who accepted Peter's message were baptized
- b. there were a few who accepted Peter's message but were not baptized
- c. that day thousand were added to their number (baptized and added to the church)

Paul Before The Council

- 4.4 In Acts 22:14-16 we find a sermon preached by Paul. Read verses 14-16 and fill in

the blanks to complete the following statement.

“And now what are _____ waiting for? Get up, be _____ and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

4.5 Based on what you have read in Acts 22:14-16, place a ✓ beside the statements which are true.

- a. _____ Paul seems to attach some urgency to baptism
- b. _____ Paul treats baptism as a priority

Lydia’s Conversion

4.6 Read in your Bible Acts 16:13-15. This is the story of the conversion of Lydia. As you read these verses fill in the blanks to complete the following statements.

- a. *“The Lord opened her _____ to _____ to Paul’s message.”*
(vs 14)

Discussion Question 2

What is meant by “she and her household were baptized”? What does the fact that her household was baptized imply?

b... she and the members of her household were _____ ...”
(vs 15)

Philip And The Ethiopian

4.7 Read in your Bible the story of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch found in Acts 8:26-39. Answer the following questions as you read:

- a. What message did Peter tell the Ethiopian (vs 35)?

- b. After he heard Peter’s message, the Ethiopian made an important decision. What was it (vs 36)?

4.8 Use your Bible to fill in the blanks and complete the following Bible verse.

"Look there is water. Why shouldn't I be _____?"

And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down _____ the _____ and Philip _____ him. (Acts 8:27b-38)

Discussion Question 3

From Acts 8:38 and the other verses we have already studied, what seems to be the accepted method of baptism:

- sprinkling with water
- pouring water on the person; or
- putting the person under the water? *

4.9 From what we have studied in this lesson which of the following statements are true?

* Mark all of the true statements with a "T".

- a. _____ Jesus taught his disciples to baptize those who became followers of Christ
- b. _____ in Acts 2 Peter preaches and three thousand people become Christians and were baptized
- c. _____ when Lydia became a Christian, she and her household were baptized
- d. _____ the Ethiopian was baptized very soon after he became a Christian
- e. _____ Paul treats baptism as a priority.

Lesson Five: Should All Christians Be Baptized?

- 5.1 In **Lesson One** we learned that John the Baptist preached that people should repent (turn from their sin) and be baptized.

John the Baptist preached that people should _____ and be _____.
(Mark 1:4-5)

- 5.2 In **Lesson Two** we learned that Jesus himself was baptized by John the Baptist. After Jesus came out of the water a voice from heaven declared, *“This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased.”* (Matthew 3:17)

Place a ✓ beside all the true statements below:

- a. _____ by being baptized himself, Jesus demonstrated that baptism was important
- b. _____ Jesus was baptized to impress the crowd
- c. _____ God approved of Jesus’ baptism.
- 5.3 In **Lesson Three** we learned that Jesus not only approved of baptism through his actions, but he also taught the importance of baptism. Jesus said:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

According to this verse:

- a. We are to make disciples of _____.
- b. We are to _____ those *who become disciples* in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *
- 5.4 In **Lesson Four** we learned how the disciples took Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:19 very seriously. We studied several examples of the disciples baptizing those who became Christians.

Match the following statements with the correct answers found below (Write the letter representing the correct answer in the blank space)

1. _____ baptized the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39)
2. _____ her family was baptized with her (Acts 16:13-15)
3. _____ 3000 were converted and baptized when he preached (Acts 2:14-41)
4. _____ he said, *"What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized..."* (Acts 22:14-16)

a. Peter b. Philip c. Lydia d. Paul

5.5 Based on what we have learned in the preceding lessons, answer the following questions:

- a. Is baptism necessary? Why? _____

- b. Who should be baptized? _____

- c. Can you think of any reasons why a Christian should not be baptized? Explain?

5.6 Have you been baptized since you became a Christian?
Circle your answer.

Yes / No

5.7 If you answered "No," do you believe that you need to be baptized?
Circle your answer.

Yes / No

Why did you answer the way you did? _____

Exercise: Be prepared to share your answer to the last question (5.7) with the class.

Now do the test on the next page

Quiz on The Doctrine Of Baptism

- T.1 Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks.
Use your Bible to find the answers in Mark 1:4 if necessary.

John taught people to _____ from their _____ ways and _____ the ways of God. If they agreed and _____ of their sins, John _____ them in the Jordan river.

- T.2 Who was the “*messenger*” that Isaiah predicted?

- T.3 Who was the “*one more powerful*” spoken of by John the Baptist?

- T.4 In what river was Jesus baptized?

- T.5 Who was the “*well pleased*” (very pleased) with Jesus’ baptism?

- T.6 Write out Matthew 28:19 (The Great Commission) from memory. Use your Bible if necessary.

T.7 Complete the following sentences:

- a. I preached in Jerusalem and 3000 people were baptized. My name is _____ (Acts 2:41)
- a. Philip baptized me beside the road. My name is _____ (Acts 8:26-39)
- c. After Paul's message, I and my whole household were baptized. My name is _____ (Acts 16:13-15)

T.8 Based on what we have learned in this unit, fill in the blanks to complete the following sentence:

Following Jesus' example and obeying what Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19, as a Christian I should be _____.

Answers To Quiz on The Doctrine Of Baptism

1.1 a, b, c (see page 3 - ✓ which answer is correct)

1.2 turn, sinful, follow, confessed, baptized

1.3 b, c

1.4 Jesus

1.5 a. messenger, Jesus
b. John, Baptist
c. turn, sins
d. baptized, Jordan

1.6 Hebrews (Jews), Essenes

1.7 a, b (page 6)

2.1 Galilee, baptized, baptize, Jesus (he)

2.2 a. F
b. F
c. T
d. T
e. T

2.3 Jordan, dove, Son, well, pleased

2.4 b, c, d

2.5 1. d
2. e
3. b
4. f
5. c
6. a

3.1 all, nations, make, people, become, Jesus

3.2 a, b

- 3.3 make, disciples, baptizing
- 4.1 baptized, every, one
- 4.2 repent, baptized
- 4.3 a, c
- 4.4 you, baptized
- 4.5 a, b
- 4.6 a. heart, respond
b. baptized
- 4.7 a. the good news about Jesus (page 14)
b. decided to be baptized
- 4.8 baptized, into, water, baptized
- 4.9 a. T
b. T
c. T
d. T
e. T
- 5.1 repent, baptized
- 5.2 a, c
- 5.3 a. all, nations
b. baptize
- 5.4 1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d
- 5.5 - 5.7 answers are your own.

“MY TESTIMONY” – Telling your story!

Preparing your testimony for Baptism

This section is designed to help you prepare your testimony (your spiritual story) so that you can make a public declaration before your baptism.

Keep it short!

A well prepared, well practiced, 2-3 minute testimony can be powerfully used by God to communicate the gospel and transform lives. It takes effort to get our stories down to 1/2 to 3/4 of a typed page, but the results are excellent. Try to avoid all Christian jargon that those unfamiliar with the church may not understand. If possible include 1 or 3 verses of Scripture that speak of God’s work and promise in your life.

General outline to guide you:

1. My life before I became a follower of Jesus (My need)
 - it is important to demonstrate that you had a need
 - explain your “sin condition” but avoid sensationalism
2. How God drew me to Himself (His search)
 - people involved
 - events / crisis / miracles God used
 - significant Bible verses
3. What Jesus did for me (His grace)
 - forgave me, saved my life, delivered me, etc
 - gave me peace
 - gave me eternal life
4. What changes have come about since Jesus forgave me
 - areas of deliverance
 - areas of change (attitudes, actions, thoughts)
 - areas of continuing need and prayer
 - God’s promise(s) for me (closing Bible verse)

Do your best to string together the above points into a smooth, free flowing story. Invite your baptism class leader to offer any “fine tuning” suggestions. Make copies to give to friends as God gives you opportunities.

The Importance of Prayer:

Please take time to pray as you prepare your testimony and as you practice it. Ask God to give you the right words to say and the ability to communicate them clearly. Pray that

your story will encourage other Christians and help bring those seeking Jesus closer to the place where they will trust him with their lives.