

Baptism Discipleship

Baptism is entering a covenant with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism is the next step after believing in Jesus for the first time. This study will provide a biblical foundation in understanding the meaning and importance of baptism and prepare you to be baptized and/or to baptize others as a disciple.

I. Review Examples of Baptism.

A. What do you learn from Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)?

B. What does the Great Commission teach about baptism (Matthew 28:18-20)?

C. What do you learn about examples of baptism from the Book of Acts (2:41, 8:12, 8:36, 9:18, 10:44-48, 16:13-15, 16:33, 18:8)?

II. Baptism as Covenant.

A. Covenant (relationship) vs. Contract (stipulations).

B. Covenants involve an exchange of life ("I am yours, you are mine"), while contracts are limited by the terms of the exchange ("that is yours, this is mine"). Covenants call for self-giving loyalty and sacrificial love, while contracts are based on profit and self-interest. Covenants are permanent, even intergenerational, while contracts are temporary.

III. New Testament Examples of Sign and Seal in a Covenant Relationship with God.

A. In the ancient world, seals represented ownership, authenticity, and authority.

B. And he has _____ us as his own by _____ the Holy Spirit in our _____ as the first _____ that guarantees everything he has _____ us (2 Corinthians 1:22).

C. And now you Gentiles have also heard the _____, the Good News that God saves you. And when you _____ in Christ, he _____ you as his own by _____ you the _____, whom he promised long ago. The _____ is God's _____ that he will give us the _____ he promised and that he has _____ us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify _____ (Ephesians 1:13-14).

IV. Read Romans 11:17-24. What do you learn about being placed into God's family?

V. The Death and Resurrection of Christ.

A. How are we identified with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:3-4)?

B. What does our baptism symbolize (Colossians 2:11-12)?

VI. Why Baptism?

- A. Baptism is entering into a covenant relationship with God.
- B. Baptism identifies you with the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- C. Jesus commands you to be baptized after you believe in Him (Matthew 28:18-20).

VII. At Your Baptism:

- A. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- B. Bring a towel and wear appropriate clothing.
- C. You can share how you came to know Jesus and how He changed your life as a public testimony (2-3 minutes). Your testimony will also provide an opportunity for a Gospel presentation to those present to believe in Jesus for the first time.
- D. You will be asked a series of questions to confirm your faith in Jesus and then be baptized.

VIII. What is Next After Baptism?

- A. You enter Jesus' discipleship process of leading others into relationship with Him for the first time, baptizing new believers, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the responsibility of every Christian. You also grow in relationship with Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through spiritual practices such as prayer, Bible study, fasting, and financial giving. It is essential that you commit to a local church for fellowship and to contribute by serving where there is need to help fulfill the Great Commission.

IX. Close in prayer for each person considering, choosing, or being equipped to baptize others.