

Sermon Guide

Baptism: What is the Good News of Jesus?

This last Sunday we began a new series in which we intend to lay out a theological foundation for what baptism is, what it means, and what it accomplishes.

In order to understand what baptism is, we first need a thorough examination of the gospel.

God made a world that needed human partnership in order to expand his kingdom physically and spiritually throughout the earth. The humans that were designed to rule by trusting God used their agency to make decisions apart from Him, defining good and evil for themselves. This sin caused evil to enter the world and severed the connection of trust between God and man.

When Jesus came he did what no human before Him was able to do - trust and obey Yahweh completely. By His death, He got what we deserved, so we could get what He deserved. In doing so, we receive a new identity and a new experience of life. We are no longer enslaved to our sin, but are free to trust God. Once alienated from God, we now experience the peace with Him that we were designed for. This reconnection with God brings about a life of power that continually crushes the head of the serpent.

Baptism is an invitation to join Him in a death like His, so that we might also join Him in a resurrection like his. (Rom 6v5). Join us next week as we continue to unpack the wonderful reality of baptism.

Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Discussion

- We get saved through substitution, cleansing, redemption, reconciliation, and triumph. Out of all these, which one really resonated with you?
- By the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made completely righteous. Did you believe this growing up? If this is something that is not in your current belief system, what does it look like for you to give God the opportunity to change your thinking?
- Believing that Jesus' death made you clean, how will that change how you interact with Him?
With the world?

Activation #1

In Alex's teaching, He outlined the story of God and humankind all the way through Jesus' death and resurrection. Take some time now to sit at Jesus' feet.

Say, "God, show me how I fit into the greater story of you and your people."

Write or draw what He shows you.

Ask Him, "Where in my life do I need to repent and believe your Good News again?"

Because you are the righteousness of God, there is an opportunity for you to choose to believe Him again and walk in the authority that He has given you.

If you mean it, pray this prayer aloud, "God, today I choose to repent and believe the Good News again. I need you and I believe that agreement with you will lead to abundant life. You died for me so that I could be completely cleansed and reconciled back to you. This means that I now walk as a righteous son or daughter of the King. I vow to make connection with you my one pursuit and see the fruit of the kingdom in my life as a result."

Ways to Pray

- That we would see people come to know Jesus!
- That the Saints' Hill family would invite people who do not know the Lord to church these next few weeks, as we talk about salvation and baptism.
- That we would continue to go after connection with God through prayer