

Sermon Guide

Baptism: What is Baptism and What Does It Do?

Last week we laid the foundation for baptism with a thorough examination of the gospel. This week Alex talked more in depth about what baptism is and what it does.

Different traditions have held different stances throughout the centuries on what baptism is. Our stance is that the act of baptism doesn't save you but should always accompany the faith that does.

Baptism gives you a new identity. It is the way we express with our physicality what is true about us theologically. Once we have repented into Christ and been baptized, we must learn how to walk in this new blood-purchased identity. It is a journey of continually remembering and receiving Christ's sacrifice for you that will lead to the kingdom being produced in your life.

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

- Have you been baptized? If you have not, what is holding you back from taking this step?
- How has the reality that Jesus died so that He could love you changed the way you view God?
- Do you believe that your faith-filled baptism really gives you a new identity?
- What does it look like for you to believe and live in this reality?

Activation #1

If you have not been baptized, we believe the next step for you is to repent and agree with God by entering the waters of baptism. You can get baptized by anyone who is a believer in Jesus and this can be done anywhere there's water! We will also be doing baptisms after our gathering on Easter Sunday.

Activation #2

Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak to you about how He sees you.

Ask Him, "God, when you look at me, what do you see, what does my new identity look like?"

Draw or write down whatever comes to mind.

Ask Holy Spirit, "where in my life have I not been walking in my blood purchased identity?"

Imagine yourself at the feet of Jesus. He died so that He could forever show kindness and love towards you. Take some time to let Him love you. Be open to the Presence of God in your spirit.

Pray, "God, today I choose to believe you and walk in the identity that you have given me as a son/daughter of the king. Because you died for me, I am a righteous person. I am completely loved by you. Not because of anything I did or did not do, but because of who you are and what you did for me. Thank you Jesus."

Ways to Pray

- That we would see people in our town 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.