

The Journey of Faith

Session 3



Baptism

Teaching Chart

MAKING YOUR FAITH PUBLIC

“...make *disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” – Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

SESSION 3: BAPTISM

John the Baptist's Practice of Baptism

He Called People to Repent (Matthew 3:1-2)
Identified People with the Coming Lord (Matthew 3:3)
Baptized People by Immersion (Matthew 3:5-6)
Symbolized Cleansing of Sin (Matthew 3:11)

Jesus Christ's Baptism by John

He Didn't Need to Repent (Matthew 3:13-14)
Identified Fully with Man (Matthew 3:15)
Baptized by Immersion (Matthew 3:16)
Symbolized Full Obedience to God (Matthew 3:17)

Christian Baptism in the Church

People Should Repent and Believe in Jesus (Acts 2:38)
Identifies with Jesus Christ and the Church (Acts 2:41)
Baptized by Immersion (Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:4)
Symbolizes Christ's Death, Burial, Resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4)

"Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith." - Watchman Nee

Three Parts Involved in the Ethiopian Official's Baptism

The Word of God (Acts 8:26-30)
The Teacher of God (Acts 8:31-35; Isaiah 53:3-7)
The Holy Spirit of God (Acts 8:36-39)

Lesson

- Overview: Almost all religious denominations teach some form of baptism for the members of their church. However, it is important to follow biblical teachings in order to follow the Lord in baptism. Baptism is the first step of obedience following salvation, but not a necessary act for salvation.
- Purpose: To instruct believers in the significance of baptism
- Verses: **Acts 2:41 (ESV)** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- I. What does baptism mean?
 - A. What it does not mean:
 1. It does not mean to sprinkle or pour. (Matthew 3:16)
 2. It does not mean to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- B. What it does mean:
1. The word baptism literally means “to dip or immerse.”
 2. Scripture gives clear evidence that when people were baptized, they were totally immersed in the water and then brought up out of the water.
 - a. Baptism of Jesus Christ
(*Matthew 3:16*)
 - b. Baptism of an Ethiopian Official
(*Acts 8:38-39*)

II. Why is it important for me to be baptized?

- A. God commanded every Christian to be baptized.
1. Baptism is the first act of obedience in our relationship to God.
 2. Jesus Christ set the example by submitting Himself to be baptized.
(*Mark 1:9-11*)
* Also see *Matthew 3:13-17* and *Luke 3:21-22* for other accounts of Jesus’ baptism.
 3. It is God’s will that every Christian be baptized.
(*Matthew 3:13-15*)
 4. Baptism is essential for spiritual growth.
 - a. You must submit to Christ in order to follow Him.
 - b. If you refuse to be baptized, you will have problems submitting to Christ in other areas.
- B. Baptism identifies the believer with Christ (outward sign of an inward decision).
1. Death
 2. Burial
 3. Resurrection

III. Who can be baptized?

- A. Those people who have been saved can be baptized.
(*Acts 8:36-37*)

This passage is proof against infant baptism:

1. Infants cannot understand salvation.
 2. Therefore, they cannot be baptized
- B. Salvation is the only requirement for baptism.

IV. When should I be baptized?

- A. You should be baptized immediately following salvation.
(*Acts 2:41*)
(*Acts 8:12*)
(*Acts 10:47-48*)
(*Acts 16:31-33*)

- B. The immediate response after salvation was baptism.

V. Where should I be baptized?

- A. Baptism is a public profession of your salvation.
- B. Therefore, you should be baptized at the church where you want to publicly declare your decision to trust Christ.

Review

1. List two things that baptism does not mean.
2. Is baptism necessary for salvation? Give scriptural support.
3. Baptism literally means to _____ or _____.
4. What does baptism by immersion mean?
5. List two scripture references to prove that baptism is by immersion.
6. Should all Christians be baptized? Why or why not?
7. What does baptism by immersion picture?
8. According to Acts 8:36-37, what is the only requirement for baptism?
9. When should a believer be baptized?
10. Baptism is a _____ profession of your _____.
11. Where should a Christian be baptized?
12. Briefly explain the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- Baptism is necessary for salvation to take place.
- Infants can be baptized into God's family or the church.
- The method of sprinkling is the same as the method of immersion (the attitude is more important than the action).