



The Baptism

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Focus Pharaoh and his army were buried in the waters of the Red Sea. This event is symbolic of the way sin and our old life are buried when we are water baptized. The book of Romans also tells us that we are buried with Christ through baptism so we can live a new, full life with Jesus.

Fun What is one of your favorite birthday memories?

Review Key Scriptures: Revelation 22:1–5; Exodus 14:29–31; Romans 6:1–11

1. The water brings death.

When the Israelites were being pursued by Pharaoh and his army, God took them through the Red Sea to escape. When Pharaoh's army went into the Red Sea after them, God caused the waters of the sea to close back over them, and the army was wiped out. This is a picture of water baptism for us today. When we are water baptized, our old way of life (Egypt) is left behind and the old sins that pursued us (Pharaoh) are left dead in the water.

2. The water brings life.

Romans 6:6 says, "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." In same way that Jesus rose from the dead and is now alive forever, when we are united with Christ in His death through baptism, we are made alive with Christ. We are free to live a full life with God because of what Jesus did. Sin is like a slave master and Jesus fully paid the price. The old master has no authority and no place to torment those who have given their lives to Jesus.

Group Dynamics Idea Read Galatians 12:2 and 1 Peter 4:10. Consider how to equip the members of your group to build the kingdom of God by using their spiritual gifts and talents to serve others. Take time to help group members determine the times they have served and felt the most joy. Was it counseling, serving, giving, or encouraging? God has equipped everyone with gifts and talents. Help members connect with their gifts so they can purposefully build God's kingdom.

Discuss

1. Read Exodus 14:29–31. How would you have felt if you were an Israelite in this moment? What would it have felt like to watch the army that was trying to kill you be destroyed in the sea?
2. How does the Egyptian army in Exodus 14 represent the ways sin, flesh, and our old lives pursue us?
3. Read Romans 6:4. How does water baptism represent the death of our old way of life?
4. Have you been water baptized? If so, how did that experience impact your life?
5. What are some ways you've experienced the new life of Jesus?
6. When the old way of life tries to taunt you (like Pharaoh did the Israelites), what Scriptures or phrases can you declare to stand in the victory of Jesus?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The water of baptism brings death to sin and the old way of living.
- When we are water baptized, we are raised to life in Jesus.
- When sin tries to enslave you, declare God's grace over your life.

Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of water baptism. We believe that we are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life in Jesus according to Scripture. Thank You that Your grace triumphs over all sin! In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Gateway Church desires to partner with what God is doing in a person's life, and one way this happens is through prayer ministry. Pray with people at the

end of each group meeting as members express needs. Keep prayer requests confidential to cover members and to create a community of respect and trust.