

Getting to Know Jesus- Adult Bible Discovery Guide- *March 22, 2020*

Welcome to Adult Bible Study this morning. Today we will continue looking at the wonderful gift of Baptism. This study has been crafted for you to do individually or in a small group. You will need an Internet connection to do this study.

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, Your son Jesus Christ was baptized, and commanded all of us to be baptized. Help me better understand this great gift and how You make it work throughout my life. in Jesus' name. Amen.*

To begin watch the video at this link: <https://vimeo.com/83721195>

I know what you might be thinking. How seriously should you view your Baptism? After all, it's just a short, spiritual ceremony, a quick splash or two, right? Wrong! Baptism is so much more! Baptism is an extremely significant and powerful moment in the life of a Christian. It is a special gift from God, for the individual and it is the very promise by God that He has claimed you and you are His forever! Your Baptism never runs out of its forgiving power, ever!

Christians take Baptism very seriously because it is god's blessings and promise upon them! Why would Christians desire as many people to be baptized as possible? When you have good news, *really Good News*, you want to share it!

How can baptism save me? I thought Jesus does the saving?

Without a doubt, Jesus saved us by paying for our sins on the cross. But Baptism is a means by which He gives us the forgiveness and peace He earned through His suffering, death and resurrection. Moreover, He gives and delivers to us this certainty through Baptism so that we know and have assurance that His forgiving Word has covered us and we have been saved by Him.

Read:

- Mark 16:16a
- Romans 6:3-7
- 1 Peter 3:20-21

Things to think about

- Why is it important that Baptism always remains linked to Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection?

Digging deeper:

Listen to the following audio clip: "What is Baptism":

<http://media.lhm.org/lutheranhour/mp3s/QA8020Pd.mp3>

Who is doing the work or action in baptism—the individual or God?

Baptism is entirely god's work, 100 percent upon and towards the individual. Remember, it is not what your word says about God; rather, it is what God's Word says about you. You are forgiven because God says you are. God is making the public announcement, not the individual.

Read:

- John 3:5

Things to think about

- What is the difference between seeing Baptism as something you do for God and seeing it as something god does for you?
- What kinds of questions or doubts would come to mind if Baptism's effectiveness depended on you?

Why is baptism not just water only?

Read:

- Hebrews 4:12

Why is baptism not just Word only, do I really have to get wet?

Baptism is not simply a spiritual event in the life of the individual, but also a physical event that can be witnessed and experienced through our senses. God reminds us His salvation is not just for our spirit, but for our spirit and body. We “take the plunge,” so to speak, and get wet in Baptism to remind us Jesus has washed us completely—body and spirit. The word for “baptize” in the original language of the new Testament is the general word for washing. Every time you wash your hands, as we are instructed to do often in these days, you can remember your own baptism.

Read:

- Mark 7:4b

Is there only one special way to get baptized?

All that is required is water and god’s Word, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, son and Holy spirit.”

The amount of water used, the location of a Baptism, or the time we’re baptized, does not matter. Water can be sprinkled or poured on the person, or the person can be dipped in it; any way is acceptable. Some Christians insist Baptism is only valid if the entire body is immersed in the water. But Jesus never specifically requires immersion; instead, He commands His church to baptize. Jesus showed by His use of the word “baptize” in connection with cleaning up after meals that it can refer to immersion, pouring or sprinkling (See Mark 7:4b again) When they washed (baptized) dining couches, they certainly did not immerse them.

Sponsors, also known as “godparents,” are not necessary, but are certainly helpful to the newly baptized person. Sponsors are to help the new Christian

1. Grow in his or her faith;
2. Understand and use God’s Word; and
3. Appreciate the many blessing of Baptism.

In the case of young children getting baptized, sponsors are witnesses who can attest the child was actually baptized.

Things to think about

- How does the variety of ways one can baptize or wash focus our attention on the Word of God spoken; rather, than the way in which the water is applied?
- What does that say about the importance of God’s Word in this holy act?