

## **Getting to Know Jesus-** Adult Bible Discovery Guide- April 19, 2020

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

Over the last three weeks we have pondered the following questions:

- How can baptism save me? I thought Jesus does the saving?**
- Who is doing the work or action in baptism—the individual or God?**
- Why is baptism not just water only?**
- Why is baptism not just Word only, do I really have to get wet?**
- Is there only one special way to get baptized?**
- If Baptism is so important, why is it not mentioned in the Old Testament?**
- Why do most Christians baptize infants?**
- Don't children have to be old enough to believe?**
- If I was baptized as a baby, do I need to be re-baptized as an adult?**
- Can I be saved without Baptism?**
- Is Baptism a "get-into-heaven-free card"?**
- What is the significance of Baptism in our daily life?**

If you did not participate in the last few weeks, you can find the lessons on the Bethany website under Sunday Worship Resources: ([www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)). If you still have questions regarding any of these topics, please go back to the last two studies or send pastor Seth an email ([smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org))

**Opening Prayer:** *Lord Jesus Christ, You have forgiven our sins by Your blood, rescued us from Satan, and won for us eternal life and salvation in Your resurrection. As you bestow these gifts on us in Baptism, grant that in life and death we may always cling to our Baptism, trusting in Your promises, and finally be brought into Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.*

For the next few weeks will look at the questions and answers section of Luther's Small Catechism published by Concordia Publishing House in 2017. We may cover some of the same information we studied in the week's prior but it never hurts to study this wonderful gift over and over again.

From Luther's Small Catechism:

### **The Nature of Baptism**

*First*

*What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

*Which is that word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19)

**The Central Thought-** Baptism is From God, since our Lord Jesus instituted Baptism, joining water to God's Word and His triune name. This is how God makes us His dear children and disciples.

For you to answer:

- *What does it mean to have a last (family) name?*
- *When God places His name on us in Baptism, what does that mean?*

**Read- Matthew 3:13-17**

For you to answer:

- *How are all three persons of the Trinity present and active in Jesus's Baptism?*
- *How does His Baptism help us to understand the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our own Baptism?*
- *How do most people answer the question, "Who am I?"*
- *How does your Baptism help you answer that question?*

**A Closer Reading of the Small Catechism**

*What does the word baptize mean?*

Answer: Baptize typically means "to wash with water," whether by immersing, pouring, or sprinkling. Christian Baptism refers to washing with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to the institution of Christ.

**Read- Mark 7:4-** the words translated as "wash" or "washing" are forms of the word "baptize."

*What is different about the water of Baptism?*

Answer: The water itself is not different, or holier than any other water, but because "God's Word and command are added to it," it is a "divine water." (Luther's Large Catechism IV 14)

**Read- Ephesians 5:25-26**

*What does it mean to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"?*

Answer: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, it is truly God's own work" (Luther's Large Catechism IV 10). In Baptism, God puts His saving name on us and is truly present to bless us with His gifts as His children and heirs.

**Read- Numbers 6:23-27; Exodus 20:24; 1 Kings 8:28-30, 9:3**

For you to answer:

- *Where is the LORD placing His name?*
- *For what purpose?*

*To whom does Jesus refer when He says that "all nations" are to be baptized?*

Answer: "All nations" refers to all people outside of the Church regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, and so on.

*What is the connection between Baptism and teaching?*

Answer: Jesus inseparably connects Baptism and teaching (see Matthew 28:19-20). Those who are able to receive instruction are normally baptized after being taught the main articles of the Christian faith.

**Read- Acts 2:38-41; 8:26-39; 16:25-33**

Infants and young children should be brought to Baptism as soon as possible and then instructed in the Christian faith as they are able to receive instruction.

**Read- Luke 18:15-17; Mark 10:13-15; and 2 Corinthians 6:2**

*Why does the church encourage sponsors at Baptism?*

Answer: Sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles Creed and witness the Baptism of those they sponsor (whenever possible), pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are to be examples to them of the life of faith and love for neighbor.

*Are all "baptisms" to be recognized as valid?*

Answer: No. When Christ's words and command are denied, changed, or ignored, such a baptism cannot be recognized as Christ's work. No other names or titles are to be substituted for the name and words that Christ gives us (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The baptisms of groups that do not confess faith in the triune God also cannot be recognized as Christian Baptism, no matter what words they use in baptizing.

In Christian churches where Baptism is administered according to Christ's institution (using water and His words "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"), there Christ fulfills His promise. Such a Baptism is to be recognized.

**Read- Romans 6:1-7**

For you to answer:

- *What do you think it means to be baptized into the death and the resurrection of Jesus?*
- *What does it mean to be united with Jesus?*