



Baptism | Red Rocks Church | 11.11.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

What's a small moment of joy or gratitude you experienced this week?

What was your biggest takeaway from the entire Alive & Free Series? How has it changed how you live or how you pursue a relationship with God?

With only eight weeks left in 2023, how would you like to end the year well?

GROW

As our Alive & Free series comes to an end, we couldn't think of a more fitting way to embrace Jesus' invitation to experience life and life to the full (John 10:10) than by hosting a baptism service. This special occasion welcomes prodigals, new believers, and long-time followers alike to publicly express their faith and celebrate the work of the cross. By joyfully and unashamedly proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives through baptism, they symbolize leaving their old selves behind and becoming new creations, free to live life as God always intended.

Did anyone in your group get baptized this weekend? What was your experience like? If you've been baptized in the past, what did that experience mean to you?

Read Acts 2:37-41, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Being baptized is an incredible moment in our faith journey, but there's nothing special about the water. John the Baptist confirms this in the gospels. "John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one

who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16, NIV). It’s simply an outward proclamation of an inward transformation of the heart through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord of our life. Sanctification is the process of being made holy - a process that won’t be made complete until Jesus returns, but our baptism is a public commitment (and celebration!) that we are dedicated to our sanctification by following God, proclaiming the name of Jesus through the Great Commission, and inviting the Holy Spirit into our life to lead us and transform us from the inside out.

What are some takeaways from the passages above?

What does it mean to you to “receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?” How have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

How has your walk of faith exemplified “being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory?” Explain. If it’s not currently, what would your life look like if it did?

M O V E

Read Matthew 28:16-20

At Red Rocks Church, our mission is to help people know God, live on purpose, and go change the world. All three of these can be seen in Jesus’ final command to his disciples in Matthew 28 (the Great Commission). We are called to “make disciples of all nations” by sharing the gospel so that people all over the world have the opportunity to accept Jesus as Lord of their life. This is how we help others “know God.” Next, we are called to “baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is a symbolic way of committing ourselves to “living on purpose” by dedicating our lives to being transformed by the power of the cross. Finally, we are called to “change the world” by teaching others to obey everything Jesus taught. One of the most powerful ways we can change the world is by living out the Great Commandment as we carry out the Great Commission, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36-40 NIV). How quickly would the world be radically transformed if it saw the true power and love of Jesus through the lives of each of us?

What does “knowing God, living on purpose, and changing the world” look like in your daily life?

How would you rate your commitment to carrying out the Great Commission? Explain

Living out the Great Commission can seem overwhelming, but Jesus says two significant things that bring hope. First, he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go.” The second is that he promises to be with us to the very end of the age.

What does it mean to you that the Creator of the universe with “all authority” trusts you to share the good news to the ends of the earth? Explain.

What does Jesus mean when he says he will “be with us always?” How is that possible and what does that look like? Find a verse or two to support your explanation.

P R A Y

As a group, lift up your praise for the lives that were celebrated this weekend. Pray for those who are still considering baptism, and pray over any prayer requests of group members as our year comes to an end.