



Baptism | Shawn Johnson | 04.21.2024
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.

How was your week?! Share a praise and a prayer.

When you're at the beach, what is your go-to activity?

Has there ever been something in your life you thought you felt completely confident in, only to learn you were barely keeping your head above water?

GROW

There are two weeks leading up to baptism weekend and so it feels like a natural time consider why we do baptism and the importance of being a part of these services. Baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It is an outward sign of an inward change; it signifies that our former way of life is put to death and that a new life has begun because of what Jesus did on the cross. As we enter into the waters, we are reminded that Christ was crucified and raised from the dead and that we too have died to the old self in order to live for Christ. It is a powerful reminder of God's goodness and grace, while serving as a step of obedience to follow Jesus' example.

Read Acts 2:5-6; 11-15; 22-23; 32; 36-38; 41 NIV

What is God speaking to you through this scripture story?

Has there ever been a moment where you felt “cut to the heart”? What was this moment like for you?

Have you been baptized? If yes, tell about your baptism story? If not, no guilt or shame, but what is holding you back?

Each of us has a testimony of the faithfulness of God in our lives, and this deserves to be celebrated. God has changed our hearts and our lives to become more like him. It is nothing we have done or have to do, we don't have to clean our lives up or work for his favor. It is his free gift of love and grace that draws us to him.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT, Romans 6:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Talk about someone you know who is great at celebrating others! What makes them so good at celebrating?

Is there another area of your life where you feel like God is calling you to obedience?

What does it PRACTICALLY look like for you to walk in Gods grace as he transforms your life?

M O V E

Responding to God in obedience can feel intimidating because there may be things in our lives that are difficult to surrender. We may feel afraid of the unknown or how things will turn out if we let go of control. However, we can have confidence in God to take care us. He has good plans for each of us. His word says that he gives us everything we need, so there is no need to fear the unknown.

Read Revelation 12:11, Psalm 139:23-24, Luke 11:28

Ask yourself this question, should I be getting baptized or is there someone I know who is ready to be baptized?

**Turn to the person next to you and take five minutes to communicate your testimony?
Take time this week to write down your testimony.**

Any final thoughts from the message this week?

P R A Y

God, we surrender our hearts and our lives to you and trust that you are good. We trust that when we walk in obedience you will take care of all of our needs. We pause right now to ask you individually how you are calling us to obedience.

Pause for 1 minute.

Thank you Lord for hearing our prayers today. We thank you for the testimony of each person in this room and how you have continued to work in our lives. Give us the confidence and courage to share this testimony with our words and our lives this week. We love you and thank you.

Amen.