



## Baptism Weekend | Doug Wekenman | 5.4-5

### Weekly Study

## SHARE

This weekend was a special one here at Red Rocks... Baptism Weekend! Where we celebrated the family in our church who made the public declaration of faith in Jesus by going into the water and rising back out a new creation in Christ! As a church we believe that it is not the water that saves, but the decision of a person to lift their hands out to God and place their faith and trust in the mighty name of Jesus. The one who came down for every one of us to cover our sin with forgiveness so we can be called holy and worthy, no matter how many times we falter.

- Did you know someone getting baptized this weekend? What are moments from the weekend you want to share?**
  
- What was the reason you decided to get baptized?**

## GROW

### Read Luke 15: 21-24

In this story, the Pharisees - religious leaders during Jesus' life - were upset because Jesus was pursuing tax collectors, sinners, and those who they deemed too far gone for God's grace. He told them this parable to demonstrate the love God truly has for each and every person. Jesus is giving us the assurance that when we turn back to God and put our faith in him, we are received with an abundant grace. You are celebrated, cherished, found, home. No matter if you're coming from the mountain top or rock bottom of life, you are safe to come exactly as you are.

- What about the story of the prodigal son speaks to you?**
  
- What does it feel like to imagine yourself as the son and God as the father in this story?**
  
- What are moments in your life where you felt restored by God?**

- How does it feel to be completely authentic in front of God? Is that something you have trouble with?

## MOVE

Read John 9: 1-12, & 24-25

- What stands out to you after reading this?
- What reactions or thoughts do verses 2-3 bring to you? Discuss with your group.
- The neighbors didn't recognize the blind man once Jesus restored his sight. Has God transformed a part of you in a similar way?

John 9 is a beautiful example of the fact that even if you can't see God working in your life, he sees you. Even if you can't explain it fully, you are still fully known by Jesus. It might seem too good to be true, but God uses even the smallest seed of faith in you and he grows it. You start to recognize the ways God shows up in your life. The Holy Spirit works inside of you, guiding and transforming you through hardship. It's hard to find the perfect words to describe the feeling of knowing you're not alone anymore, but seen and loved instead. That is the power of a testimony. It is our own personal story - just like the blind man's - of how once Jesus got a hold of your heart, life was never the same.

- What video testimony from church spoke to you? Or who is someone you know whose story has brought you closer to God?
- Share your testimony or journey of faith with the group.
- Is there a moment of your life that you were filled with praise for God?
- Who in your life is God calling you to bring to church?

*"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."* (Acts 22:16)

## PRAY

Have one person lead the group out in prayer and another pray specifically for the people who have been baptized this weekend. Share prayer requests with each other and have a great week!