



## Baptism Spring 2025 | 5.3-4

### Weekly Study

## SHARE

What a weekend!! We got to celebrate the family members of our church who dedicated their life to Jesus. We focused on the power and meaning behind baptism. Baptism is not just a ritual, it's a celebration, a public declaration that we belong to Jesus. Through baptism, we are identifying with His death, burial, and resurrection, trusting in the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. Whether you're recently baptized or reflecting on your own journey, this week is a moment to remember what it means to follow Jesus with boldness and obedience.

- ☐ **Share what baptism has meant in your life or how you felt watching someone else take that step.**

## GROW

### Read Colossians 2:12

In Colossians 2:12, Paul paints a beautiful picture of what baptism truly represents. It's not just about going under water and getting wet; it's about being buried with Christ and raised into a new life through faith in the power of God. It's a moment where heaven rejoices, not because of the act itself, but because of the heart of trust behind it.

*The Greek word for "baptism" is baptizō (βαπτίζω).* This word means "to immerse" or "to submerge," signifying full identification with something—in this case, with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism isn't just symbolic; it reflects a total surrender and alignment with Christ.

This moment of decision is rooted in obedience. Baptism follows a choice to turn from sin and follow Jesus. It's a celebration of salvation, yes, but it's also an act of surrender and trust.

- ☐ **Reflect on your own story. Was there a turning point when faith became personal for you? What does it mean to you that baptism is more than a symbol, trusting in the power of God?**

- ☐ How do these verses help you see baptism not just as an option, but a step of obedience?
- ☐ Why do you think it's important that baptism follows repentance? What is the connection between our internal faith and our external declaration?

## MOVE

### Read Acts 2:38

Peter's command is clear: **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."** Baptism is more than a symbolic ritual, it's a direct response to the grace of God, a step of obedience that follows genuine repentance. This verse highlights two essential movements of the heart: repentance, a turning away from sin, and baptism, a public act of faith that affirms the inward transformation.

The Greek word for repentance is *metanoeō* (μετανοέω). This verb means "to change one's mind" or "to turn around." Biblical repentance isn't just feeling bad, it's a decisive shift in direction, turning from sin and toward God with a transformed heart and purpose. It's not just about personal salvation; it's also about joining the family of believers and stepping into your identity as part of God's kingdom.

In a world that encourages keeping faith private, baptism boldly declares that you've made a decision to follow Jesus, fully, publicly, and unapologetically. That kind of courage is contagious. It invites others to ask questions, to consider their own faith, and often, to take steps of obedience themselves. Baptism creates ripple effects of transformation.

So the question becomes: where is God calling you to respond in obedience today? Maybe it's a step you've been putting off. Maybe it's a new area of trust. Baptism reminds us that faith is not passive, it moves, it acts, and it obeys.

- ☐ What does obedience look like in your life right now? Are there areas where God is calling you to take action or take a stand?
- ☐ Go around the room and share stories or testimonies of a time when God moved after you said yes in faith. Celebrate any recent baptisms and what God has done in the lives of those individuals.

## 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!