



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker * -

What is the funniest/coolest/most memorable street name you've ever seen?

1. What was the most surprising/interesting thing you learned about baptism from the message and why did it capture your attention?
2. Pastor Tom shared many passages that describe Jesus, Saul/Paul, and literally thousands of other new Jesus followers being baptized soon after saying 'YES!' to Jesus. What excuses do you hear (or have) that keep people (or you) from following the clear mandate from the Bible?
3. Pastor Tom taught that baptism is not necessary for our salvation, but neither is it an "optional extra for Jesus followers." If you've already been baptized, what are some tangible results of that step of obedience? If you have yet to take this step, what might you be missing until you do?
4. Pastor Tom said baptism is a symbol for all to see. What has/would your baptism said/say to others, making it a "sermon without words?"
5. Pastor Tom made clear that Martin Luther, John Wesley, and John Calvin declared in their writings that the baptism of the Bible is not the same thing as infant baptism. But many Riversiders, who like Pastor Tom were baptized as infants, have difficulty seeing the difference between what was done for them and what Jesus calls them to do *themselves*. If you are from an infant baptism tradition and chose to be baptized as a follower of Jesus, how would you encourage someone who shares that tradition to take this next step of baptism?

Day One: Psalm 52

Day Two: Proverbs 21

Day Three: 1 Samuel 3

Day Four: Isaiah 52

Day Five: Acts 24

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE

* This week's Icebreaker courtesy of the Sauk Rapids Nash Small Group.



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



MULTIPLY

"NOW'S THE TIME TO TAKE THE PLUNGE"
JULY 30, 2023

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MYRC.CHURCH

MULTIPLY

MESSAGE NOTES

"Now's the Time to Take the Plunge"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Today I want us to see that a huge part of multiplying Jesus' mission in our personal lives and as a church family is that every professing follower of Jesus follow Jesus' _____ command to take the plunge of water baptism.

1. What the New Testament _____ Us About Water Baptism

- A. Meaning of baptism = "Baptizo" = "to _____ to immerse"
- *I would have those who are to be baptized to be _____ immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies.* (Martin Luther)
 - *The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the _____ church.* (John Calvin)
 - *Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the _____ of the first church.* (John Wesley)
- B. John the Baptist - his ministry shows us that baptism was not a new idea _____ by Christians, or even by John the Baptist.
- Baptism = always a symbolic _____.
 - John the "Baptizer" practiced a baptism that symbolized _____ (note [Matthew 3:7-11a](#)).
- C. Baptism of Jesus - His baptism _____:
- It was to "_____ all righteousness" (note [Matthew 3:15](#)).
 - Fulfilled the mission of John the Baptist and marked the start of Jesus' _____ ministry.
 - Jesus identified Himself with the _____ condition of humanity which He had come to save.
 - It is an _____ to all His followers.
- D. Other New Testament Examples - baptism practiced very soon _____ commitment to Jesus Christ, so much so that often baptism and salvation closely tied together:
- [Acts 2](#), Pentecost
 - [Acts 8](#), Samaritan converts and Ethiopian government official
 - [Acts 9](#), Saul of Tarsus
 - [Acts 16](#), Lydia of Thyatira and Philippian jailer and his household
 - [Acts 18](#), believers in Corinth
 - [Acts 19](#), Ephesian disciples

Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of _____ baptism).

Note [Matthew 28:18-20](#).

Baptism is an outward _____ and symbol of what has happened inwardly/ personally/and spiritually to a person when they say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

The _____ of baptism does not make anyone a Jesus follower...

Paul - we can see that God used baptism to:

2. Make His Faith _____

For Saul/Paul to be baptized challenged his religious heritage and education, as well as his _____. Note [Acts 9:18](#).

3. Connect with God's _____ (note [Acts 9:19b](#))

Baptism was his _____ to also connect with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem (note [Acts 9:26-28](#)). Spiritual growth happens in relationships, not _____.



- 1 Come every Sunday
- 2 Be part of a group
- 3 Serve on a team

4. Share Your _____ (note [Acts 9:20](#))

Baptism is both a public declaration of our faith and a _____ without words ([Romans 6:4-5](#)).

Baptism sets us on a course to be both _____ (come and sit with me) and witnesses (*here's what Jesus did for me*).

5. Keep Taking Next _____

Note [Acts 9:21, 22](#). Baptism sets us on a course of taking next steps and growing _____ in our walk with Jesus. Note [Matthew 28:19](#).

What does it mean for Riverside to MULTIPLY?:

- Baptism isn't an _____ extra for Jesus followers.

Here are the 3 qualifications to engage in baptism:

1. You need to be a follower of Jesus.
2. You need to have not been baptized as an adult believer in Christ already.
3. You need to be at least 12 years old.

*(We do baptize children younger than 12 if they have parental support and have talked it through with our Riverside Kids leaders. Riverside Kids also has a discipleship class called **No Limits** for children under 12; they are given a chance to engage in baptism after completing this course; details at [MYRC.CHURCH/NOLIMITS](#).)*

Don't get baptized:

- If you're not sure about following Jesus.
- If you're trying to impress others.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too - fill out a connect card (digital* or hard copy).

*Text **riverside** to **94000**

Take this important step and be baptized at our summer baptism next Sunday, Aug 6! Baptism coaches are available at the end of the service to help you.

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MESSAGE NOTES

"Now's the Time to Take the Plunge"

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Today I want us to see that a huge part of multiplying Jesus' mission in our personal lives and as a church family is that every professing follower of Jesus follow Jesus' clear command to take the plunge of water baptism.

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The act of baptism does not make anyone a Jesus follower...

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Baptism was his invitation to also connect with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem (note [Acts 9:26-28](#)).

Spiritual growth happens in relationships, not isolation.



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