



## BAPTISM INTO A LIVING RELATIONSHIP

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### WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Firm Foundation (He Won't)** (*Cody Carnes*)
- **Reign Above It All** (*Bethel Music*)
- **The Stand** (*Hillsong United*)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Peter 2:4-10

### OPENING PRAYER (10 min)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help group members understand their identity as living stones in His spiritual house.

### Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share about a time when you felt like you didn't fit in with a group you once belonged to. How did that experience shape you?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

### Identity in Christ

1. Peter tells the early church they have a "new citizenship" and are now "the people of God" (v.10). How does understanding yourself as God's "special possession" change the way you view rejection or exclusion in your everyday life?
2. The sermon emphasizes finding identity in our new King rather than old allegiances. What are some "old allegiances" (social groups, political affiliations, career identity, etc.) that people today struggle to let go of when following Christ?
3. How does baptism symbolize this transition from "not a people" to "the people of God"?

### Faith and Obedience

4. The sermon states: "The way you build on the foundation of Christ is by believing and obeying." Why do you think both elements are necessary? Can you have one without the other?
5. Verse 8 says some "stumble because they disobey the message." What are some common ways Christians might believe in Jesus but struggle to obey His teachings?
6. The sermon uses the metaphor of "two wings that give the bird flight"—faith and practice, creed and deed. Which "wing" do you tend to rely on more? Which needs strengthening in your life?

### Spiritual Growth

7. 1 Peter 2:2 calls us to "crave pure spiritual milk" for spiritual growth. What are the "spiritual foods" that actually nourish you? What are the empty calories you tend to fill your life with instead?
8. The sermon mentions TikTok, Spotify, and The British Baking Show as things that won't provide spiritual nourishment. How do you balance legitimate rest and entertainment with intentional spiritual growth?

### God's Temple, Not Our Project

9. The sermon flips the script: "We don't ask God to sprinkle holy water and bless what I'm doing. God is building something, and I will join in what he is building." How does this perspective change the way you approach your work, ministry, or daily life?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS (5 mins)

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

1. Find your identity, protection, and trust in your new King (not your old allegiances)
2. You build on Christ's foundation through believing AND obeying (both are essential)
3. You need spiritual nourishment to grow spiritually (intentional intake of God's Word and presence)
4. God is not your possession; you are God's possession (we don't control Him; He shapes us)
5. You are the temple God is building (we join what He's doing, not vice versa)
6. God's temple is alive—speaking and praising (we're not mute statues but living witnesses)

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose at least one of these to practice this week:

### For Individual Growth:

- **Spiritual Diet Audit:** Track what you consume this week (media, entertainment, news, Scripture, prayer). What ratio of spiritual nourishment to empty calories are you taking in?
- **Daily "Living Stone" Prayer:** Each morning, pray: "God, I am not my own. I am yours. Build me into your temple today. Show me what you're building, and help me join in."
- **Obedience Step:** Identify one area where you believe God's Word but haven't been obeying. Take one concrete step of obedience this week.

### For Group Connection:

- **Share Your Story:** If you've been baptized, share your baptism story with someone this week (especially someone newer to faith). If you haven't been baptized, talk with a pastor or mature believer about taking that step.

### For Witness:

- **Be a "Living Temple":** Invite someone to experience your small group or church. Let them encounter the living God through your community's worship, conversation, and care for one another.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Close your time by praying for:

1. Those who feel rejected or excluded because of their faith in Christ
2. Growth in both belief and obedience for each group member
3. Hunger for spiritual nourishment and wisdom to prioritize time with God
4. Our church to be a living temple where people encounter the speaking, active God
5. Those considering baptism or those who were recently baptized