

# Baptism at Discovery



*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.” – Matthew 28:19-20*

Here in Discovery, our church is comprised of people from a variety of church backgrounds. As a result, questions about the meaning and manner of Baptism are common. We believe that Baptism is a beautiful symbol of our new life in Christ, and we seek God’s Word on how and when we should be baptized. Our belief in the Bible’s authority for our lives and our uncompromising commitment to Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the basis for Discovery’s statement of faith, which includes the following:

- The forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust Christ as Savior and Lord. (*John 3:16*)
- Those accepting Christ need to repent of sin, confess their faith, and should be baptized into Him. (*Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38*)
- We believe that Baptism (by immersion) is a symbol of faith in Jesus and that it is to be practiced by the church (*Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*)

In summary, the Bible teaches us to believe in Christ and be baptized (*Acts 2:37-41*). Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is an act of obedience, a wonderful symbol of our sinful nature being buried with Christ and rising into new life in Him (*Romans 6:4*).

While the Bible does not give specific instructions on the precise manner of Baptism we believe the Bible does illustrate Baptism as follows: individuals choosing to be baptized after trusting in Christ, by full immersion in water.

## **Bible Study on Baptism**

Below are several scriptures for you to study. We encourage you to look solely at what God’s Word says regarding Baptism, putting aside what other humans have said.

**Mark 7:8, 13** What should (and shouldn’t) be the standard for a Christian’s life?

**Matthew 3:13-17** Who was baptized and why? What was God’s reaction to it?

**Matthew 28:18-20** What was the last thing Jesus told his disciples?

**Acts 2:37-41** When the people were ready to accept Christ, what did Peter tell them to do (v. 38)?

**Acts 19:1-5** What was done when a group of believers did not have a proper understanding of baptism?

**Romans 6:3-4** What picture does this scripture give of baptism?

**John 3:23, Matthew 3:16 & Acts 8:38** Which form of baptism do these references point towards – immersion, pouring or sprinkling?

**Galatians 3:26-27** What assurance is given to those who have faith and are baptized?

In light of your study, what do you believe God's Word says about:

- Who should be baptized?
- What method is illustrated in Scripture?
- When should a believer be baptized?

We encourage every person desiring to accept Christ to study these scriptures and make a decision to be baptized as soon as possible. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor John today! He'd love to talk with you more.

Phone: 530-758-0316

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### Some Frequently Asked Questions

#### **I want to be baptized! What do I do?**

Go through the previous Bible study questions and meet briefly with Pastor John Richert. Ultimately, your decision to be baptized is between you and God. Our intent is solely to determine that you understand who Christ is to you, what baptism means and are making the decision for yourself.

#### **What should I expect at my baptism?**

We regularly hold baptisms in the theater or at other locations. We generally do our best to accommodate any guests you would like to attend, and we encourage our church family to celebrate with you. On the day of baptism, you will pray with a pastor and be given simple instructions. In the baptism tub, you will be fully immersed in the arms of the person baptizing you and then immediately lifted out of the water. The person baptizing you does not need to be a pastor, but does have to be a fellow believer in Christ who has also shown their commitment to follow Christ through baptism.

#### **Does Discovery baptize children?**

We do not baptize infants, but have child dedications by parents. We do baptize children who understand the meaning and significance of faith in Jesus Christ and who have made their own personal decisions. We ask parents to accompany their children through the process and determine their spiritual maturity.



