



AUGUST 6, 2023

CAPITAL CITY

PRACTICES & CONVERSATIONS

A resource to help you engage in a regular rhythm of spiritual practices and a tool to encourage conversation with God and others as you encounter Jesus, become like Jesus, and love like Jesus

Part 1: Practice

Spiritual practices help us create space to open ourselves to God.

In this week's practice, we're focusing on them. In this new series, we are using the Bible as our final authority as the foundation for what we believe about baptism. Take a few moments with God and consider what you have used as your final authority on this subject in the past. Ask God to give you a teachable heart, an open mind, and wisdom to discern what the Bible actually says about this important topic.

Part 2: Conversations between you and God

Spend some time with God this week, considering these questions:

1. Talk with God about your experience with baptism. Have you ever been baptized? Were you sprinkled or immersed? Why?
2. Romans 6:3-5 reminds us that baptism is a picture of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Why might Jesus command us to voluntarily choose follow his command and example by following him in this way?
3. Matthew 28:18-20 tells of Jesus' command to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them about Jesus. How have you been fulfilling that commission? Talk with God about this and ask him how he might be inviting you into this responsibility.

Part 3: Conversations with others

1. Baptism is a choice that we make of our own free will to obey Jesus' command and follow his example. What difference is there between having someone choose to sprinkle you and you choosing to participate with the Trinity in immersion? Why does that difference matter?
2. Were there or are there currently those who opposed you following Jesus in baptism? What did it look like then or might it look like now to "not be denied" and to choose to listen to Jesus' voice instead of the voice of others?
3. How does our public profession of faith and obedience to Jesus through baptism build our own faith? How does it build the faith of others?