

life groups

NLC Weekly Sermon Study

Week of April 9, 2017
Sermon: Baptism



NEW LIFE
CHURCH

Schedule

30 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Scavenger Hunt**. Divide the group into teams of up to five. Provide them with a list of items to find. Choose items that can be found in the immediate area, pockets, purses, or on-line. For example: a credit card, a digital photo of a family, a pair of reading glasses, a baby picture, a business card, and the address of a donut shop in Little Rock. Take a pic of the items and text to the Life Group leader with the image and their team number. The first team to find the objects and text to the leader, wins!

NOTE: Feel free to use as much or as little of the following study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN **Nothing New—Baptism**

READ EPHESIANS 5:2 “Be full of love, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins.”

- Being “full of love” means caring about what Jesus cares about, so what does He care about? Souls—He created them and then died for them!
 - › Jesus loves everybody! He loves the people you don’t love, the people you disagree with, even the people you think are evil.
- The message of the early church was not centered around a set of teachings, but that **something had happened**.
 - › They all knew the tomb was empty; it’s the foundation of our faith.

Q1. **Easter is next weekend! One out of every four people in the US would attend church if asked. Who can you ask?**

- God loves to seal a relationship with some outward sign of covenant.
 - › With Noah, it was a rainbow. With Abraham, it was circumcision. With us, it’s baptism.

1. Baptism is a picture of moving from slavery to freedom.

HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-2

- When God delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, they passed miraculously through the parted waters of the Red Sea, moving out of slavery into freedom: new life! It’s why we call our

church New Life!

- Behind them was slavery; in front of them was the Promised Land. This is a great picture of Christian baptism.
 - › When we trust in Christ, we are freed from being in bondage to sin, freed to receive a new life, a new resurrected life.
 - › We have seen people set free from addiction, perversion, anger, and more in the waters of baptism.
- At Baptism there is a supernatural GRACE on your life to begin walking in Freedom.
 - › It's when you close the door on yesterday, moving toward God's plan of freedom.

2. Baptism is a watery grave.

- The old you dies. The new you lives.

ASK OTHERS TO TAKE TURNS READING ROMANS 6:1-7

- That's a picture of our old man—our old nature—who we used to be.
 - › Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, yet baptism is more than symbolic.

HAVE SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 2:12

- Baptism in the early church was performed in a river. They would wear a white garment underneath a stained, torn outer garment. While under water, they would remove the stained garment, and when they came up, they would let the old garment float down the river—"see you later, old life!"

Q2. How many of you have ever said, "I don't want to be the person I am anymore"?

- Then let it go! When we're baptized, we're baptized into Jesus' death and the waters of baptism become for us a watery grave.
 - › The person we used to be exists no more! The old "us" has been buried! My New Identity is IN CHRIST...

3. Baptism is me publicly changing my relationship status.

ASK OTHERS TO TAKE TURNS READING LUKE 3:21-22

- Some hesitate to be baptized in water, but it's the first thing Jesus did!

READ MATHEW 3:13 "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John."

- › Jesus had to walk 60 miles to be baptized! Baptism was personally at the top of Jesus's list.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ MARK 8:38

- Being in a covenant marriage relationship is very personal, but it isn't kept a secret from everybody else.
- Our relationship with Christ is the same way. It's very personal, but it was never meant to be private.

Q3. For those of you who are married, when you married your spouse, if they had asked for just one thing, yet you still haven't given it to them, what would that tell you about you? About your relationship?

THREE RESPONSES TO BAPTISM

1. God's House should celebrate! Baptism is a celebration!

- God commanded Israel to have many festivals and celebrations! The church should lead the way in celebration in our nation.
- As Christ-followers, we celebrate our Savior! Like Palm Sunday.

2. We must understand what the Word says about Baptism

- **How should I be water baptized?**
 - › The Greek for the word 'baptizo' means to **immerse**.
 - › We baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in the precious name of Jesus. (We cover all the bases and try not to leave anything out!)
- **I was baptized as a child; does that count?**
 - › The Bible doesn't talk about this. If you get baptized before salvation, you were only a wet sinner.
- **If water baptism seems slightly embarrassing to you, that is a sign for you to do it.**
 - › It's the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead 2000 years ago who will wash your sins away and take up residence in you.

Q4. If you have become a Christ-follower, have you taken the step of obedience through water baptism? If you have been water baptized, share your experience with the group.

3. I must do this ASAP.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ HEBREWS 4:7

- Obedience is not something we have to pray about. Water Baptism is the first thing asked, not just the next thing asked, identifying your new life in Christ.
 - › How can we truly say that Jesus is Lord in our life, when we

- refuse to do the very thing He says to do after salvation?
- › Baptism pleased the heavenly Father. The way we know the will of God is by looking at the Word of God.

4. It identifies our new life in Christ.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ ROMANS 6:3

- If you are feeling compelled by the Holy Spirit to be water baptized, text WATER to 88000. The next Baptism services will be held the weekend after Easter, on April 22-23.

SERVE DISCUSSION

- Q5.** Where can you plug in to serving at New Life Church, maybe even serving together as a life group?

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please refer to your service guide for campus-specific announcements.