

Small Group Discussion Guide

Baptism — Going Public

Introduction - This week we explored why baptism is a public declaration of a personal decision to follow Jesus. For many of us, our understanding of baptism is shaped more by tradition and emotion than by Scripture. Tonight, we'll open the Bible together and ask what baptism meant in the first century—and what it means for us now.

Opening (5 minutes)

1. When you hear the word baptism, what emotions or memories immediately come to mind? (No debates—just experiences.)

Scripture & Understanding (15–20 minutes)

2. Read Matthew 28:19. Why do you think Jesus included baptism in His final instructions?

3. Read Romans 6:3–4. What does baptism symbolize according to this passage?

4. Read Acts 19:4–5. What do you notice about the connection between belief and baptism?

5. The message described baptism as a 'public declaration of a new association.' How would you explain that phrase in your own words?

Personal Reflection (15 minutes)

6. Why do you think baptism can stir up strong emotions in people? How much of your perspective is shaped by Scripture versus tradition?

7. If you've been baptized as a believer, what impact did that decision have on you? If you haven't, what has held you back?

8. The message ended with the question: 'Will you delay or obey?' What would obedience look like for you right now?

Closing - Baptism is not about earning salvation—it's about publicly identifying with Jesus. If God is prompting you to take a next step, don't ignore it. Pray for courage, clarity, and a faith that is personal—but not private.