

Baptism: What's it all about?

You can use this study guide individually or with others to work through what the bible teaches about faith, baptism, and our response to God's grace. If you have any questions you can talk to one of the ministers by calling the Hope office at 440-937-9602 or e-mailing office@hopechristianchurch.com.

1. If you grew up in the church, how has that shaped your view of baptism? What have you been taught about how it should be done, who it is for, and why we do it?
2. If you have been baptized, what was your experience like? What do you remember?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is it that saves us? Why do you think that it's important that we can't "boast" about our salvation?
4. Read Acts 2:37-38. What emotions were behind the question the people asked of Peter? What problems does sin present in our life? How did Peter's answer address those problems? What is the role of baptism in this passage?
5. Read Romans 6:1-4. What issue was behind Paul's opening rhetorical question? At what point does Paul say we "died to sin?" How is baptism like a funeral? What does it mean to you that we "may live a new life?"
6. Read Galatians 3:26-27. How do we become "sons of God?" What are the big advantages about being a son? What do you think Paul means that we are "clothed with Christ?"
7. Read 1 Peter 3:20-21. What is the meaning of the comparison between Noah's family and Christians today? How can Peter say that "baptism saves you?" In verse 21, what would the difference be between a "pledge of a good conscience" and an "appeal to God for a good conscience?" Which word fits the meaning of baptism better to you?
8. Based on what Rolland said in his message, in your opinion, can you go to heaven without being baptized? Why or why not?
9. If you haven't been baptized, what's holding you back?
10. If you have been baptized, has studying these passages changed anything for you about what you believe? If so, what does baptism mean to you now?

For further study on baptism, read: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, John 3:3-6, Acts 8:35-39, Acts 16:29-34, Acts 22:16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Colossians 2:11-12, Titus 3:4-7