

Christian Foundations Series

Lesson 4 – Baptism

Baptism

When we repent of our sins and put our faith and trust In Jesus we are born again. Jesus spoke of our need to be born again in John chapter 3, when He was speaking with Nicodemus, a religious leader. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

Jesus was, of course, talking about a spiritual rebirth and not a physical one. Baptism is a physical act that shows that we have become believers in Jesus and that we are spiritually born again.

Jesus’ Teachings About Salvation & Baptism

- 1 Read [John 3:3](#) What must happen for a person to “see God’s kingdom?” What do you think this means?
- 2 Read [John 3:16](#) What happens to those who believe in Jesus? What happens to those who don’t believe in Jesus?
- 3 Read [Matthew 28:19-20](#). What did Jesus teach the disciples to do? According to Jesus, who should be baptized? In whose name should people be baptized? Why do you think Jesus mentions this?

Baptism in the Early Church

- 4 Read [Acts 2:41](#). In your own words, describe what Peter taught about baptism. How many were baptized? How much time passes between them believing and being baptized?
- 5 Read [Acts 8:34-38](#). What did Philip tell the man before he baptized him? Who initiated the baptism, Philip or the eunuch? Describe how the eunuch was baptized. Did the eunuch believe the good news before or after he was baptized?
- 6 Read [Acts 16:30-33](#). What did the people ask? What happened first – did they believe in the Lord Jesus, or were they baptized first? What do you think, does this teach us that a person must be baptized first to be saved, or saved before they are baptized? How did the jailer treat Paul and Silas now?

The Changed Life of the Christian

- 7 Read [II Corinthians 5:17](#). How does a person change when they become a Christian?
- 8 Read [Galatians 2:20](#). What happens to our old life when we trust Jesus? How does our life change? What motivates the Christian?
- 9 Read [Romans 6:3-4](#) Describe what happens when we are “joined” with Christ. Why do you think that is important? How does this help us understand what baptism does?

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John's Baptism & the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- 10 Read [Acts 19:1-7](#). How was the baptism of John the Baptist different from Christian baptism? What did the Holy Spirit do when they were baptized?

Note: We will learn more about the Holy Spirit and Spiritual gifts in Lesson 7.

True or False

- a. Jesus said that we must be born again to see God's Kingdom.
- b. Jesus taught that only Jewish Christians needed to be baptized.
- c. Philip baptized the eunuch by sprinkling some water on his head.
- d. Baptism is a way to show physically what has happened to us spiritually.

For Discussion:

What did you think baptism was before you studied this lesson? What do you think now?
Why might someone choose to be baptized? What might prevent a person from being baptized?

Note: In the original Greek, the word baptize was "baptizo". The word meant "to dip" or "to immerse." In every example of the word found in the Bible people are either immersed in water, or the passage does not state how the people were baptized.

In the present day some Christian denominations choose to sprinkle the individual being baptized. However, many others choose to follow the original meaning of the word and the examples seen in the Bible. The goal of this study is simply to show how people were baptized in Bible times.

Series Outline:

1. Creation, The Fall and Salvation
2. Discipleship and the Lordship of Jesus
3. Our Daily Walk with God
4. Baptism
5. Worship & Breaking of Bread
6. Church Fellowship
7. The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts
8. Wealth & Giving
9. Sharing Our Faith
10. Growing in our Faith
11. The Second Coming
12. Our Final Destination
13. Review