

Baptism - 5 Questions

*Leaders: The pattern revealed in the New Testament is that only those who give a believable profession of faith should be baptized. This is because baptism, which is a symbol of beginning the Christian life, should only be given to those who have in fact begun the Christian life. **Please take this time to clearly explain the gospel to students so that they understand it and believe it.** Once you are confident of their faith in Christ, ask your students each of these questions without "giving the answers" to see if students understand baptism. After they have answered, clear up any misunderstandings they have about baptism by giving verses and reasons below. Once you are confident in their belief and commitment to the Gospel, and their understanding of baptism,*

- 1.) Why do you want to get baptized?
- 2.) What is the significance of baptism? What does it mean?
Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change

There are at least 2 inward changes represented in baptism:

- 1.) **Dying and Rising with Christ**

Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12 - The inward change is that we have died with Christ and have been raised up to a new life. When you go down into the water, it is a picture of going down into the grave and being buried. Coming up out of the water is then a picture of being raised with Christ to walk in your new life. Baptism very clearly pictures death to one's old way of life and rising to a new kind of life in Christ.

- 2.) **Having our sins washed away**

Titus 3:5 and Acts 22:16 - Water is an obvious symbol of washing and cleansing, and the waters of baptism do symbolize washing and purification from sins.

- 3.) Is baptism necessary for salvation?
 - a.) Luke 23:43 - Thief on the cross
 - b.) Eph. 2:8-9 - Salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone.
- 4.) If it's not necessary for salvation, why be baptized?
 - a.) Matthew 28:19-20 - It is a clear command of Jesus
 - b.) Mark 1:10 - Jesus was baptized
 - c.) Acts 2:38 - The early apostles commanded it
 - d.) Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, Acts 10:47-48 - Baptism is what early Christians did to show they had received the gospel and trusted in Christ for salvation
 - e.) It publicly identifies a person as a follower of Jesus
- 5.) What is baptism's effect on me? Does baptism only symbolize? Or in some way will baptism bring a blessing to me?
 - a.) There is blessing of God's favor that comes with **all** obedience
 - b.) Joy comes through public profession of one's faith
 - c.) Reassurance of having a clear physical picture of dying and rising with Christ and washing away of sins

Certainly the Lord gave us baptism to strengthen and encourage our faith, and to give the world a symbol of what Christ has done for us. It should strengthen the one who is baptized as well as the believers who witness baptism, as it reminds the body of Christ over and over again that we are buried with Christ and raised to walk in his victory over sin and death!

