



## Why baptism?

**Bottom Line:** Go public with your faith in Jesus.

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17

### ***A Note To Group Leaders:***

***Keep in mind the goal of every meeting is to create meaningful conversation and connection.  
Feel free to choose a few questions for discussion and adjust questions as needed.***

### **The Setup**

At the end of Jesus' ministry, He gives the eleven disciples their final instructions; "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Of all the assignments Christ could have given, His main two involved the disciples bringing hearts in all nations to Him and making sure all who believe in Him publicly profess their faith through baptism. In this study, you will discuss Jesus' own baptism to better understand the significance of baptism for believers today.

### **Thought Starters**

Make a list of common symbols or rituals in modern society. What do these symbols communicate? Are they important to the person or organization using them?

### **Questions For Reflection**

#### ***Read Matthew 3:1-13***

Why did He walk over 60 miles for John the Baptist to be the one who baptized Him?

Why did Jesus pursue baptism in the Jordan?

#### ***Read Matthew 3:14-17 and then John 1:31-34***

When you compare these two passages, particularly Matthew 3:14 and John 1:33, it appears John the Baptist, even though Jesus' cousin, did not know Jesus was the Messiah until after he baptized Jesus. Why does John respond to Jesus the way he does in Matthew 3:14? What does this reveal to you about the life Jesus lived before His ministry began?

What does Jesus mean in Matthew 3:15 about "*fulfill all righteousness?*"

What type of relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit do verses 16 and 17 provide?

### **Application In Your Life**

#### ***Read Romans 6:1-11***

In these passages, Paul metaphorically talks about baptism as a believer's spiritual baptism into the saving grace of Jesus Christ. How would you use these verses to describe to someone the symbolism of water baptism?

When would you recommend someone get baptized?

## Table Talk

This week, spend one meal together with your spouse or a trusted friend discussing the memory verse and questions below. Through this time, you will learn how to integrate God's Word into your everyday life and closest relationships.

*"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"*

Matthew 3:17

What are a few acts or gestures from your spouse or friend that really please you? What gestures or acts do you think please God? Why do you think God was pleased with Jesus and His baptism and how would that apply to you in your daily life?

Close your mealtime in prayer, thanking God for His unfailing and unending love. Ask for His protection and guidance through Christ in every aspect of your situation.

## Go A Little Further



**READ Acts 8:26-40 as a quiet time this week.**

As you read through this story, use the following questions to help guide your study:

- Where do you see yourself in the story?
- Is there someone you should talk with about Jesus or encourage to be baptized?
- Do you yourself still have questions or need to take the step to be baptized?



**LEARN more about baptism online at [stonecreekchurch.org/](http://stonecreekchurch.org/).**

Here you will find answers to some of the most common questions on baptism and Stonecreek Church's practices as well as a an audio link for you to listen to a message on baptism. You can also contact our adult and family ministries offices at 770-754-7900, ext. 112 to speak with one of Stonecreek's pastors.