

Small Group Questions

If you have been baptized, summarize for group members what the experience was like for you. Depending on your age, what do you remember most? How did your baptism affect you at the time?

Read Acts 2:36-41:

1. How would you describe baptism to an unchurched friend who has never witnessed a service of baptism?
2. A friend of yours, a new Christian, asks you if she should be baptized. How would you respond to her question?
3. Those who accepted Peter's message by turning from sin and trusting Christ as their Savior and Lord were baptized "that day" (Acts 2:41; see also Acts 8:34-39). Should we require new believers to receive some teaching before being baptized or should we promote "spontaneous baptisms"; i.e., encourage new converts to be baptized as soon as possible?
4. Many evangelical churches permit individuals to decide how they will be baptized – by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. How important is the method or mode of baptism? See John 3:23, Acts 8:38
5. Some who attend Greenwood were baptized as infants. Should our church require these individuals to be re-baptized as a requirement for Membership in a Baptist Church? Why or why not?
6. Is it appropriate for summer camps and ministries that target high school or college students to practice baptism outside of the context of the local church? How essential is the authority inherent in the local church essential to the act of baptism? Consider Matthew 28:19-20. Can any Christian simply baptize someone in the privacy of their back-yard swimming pool?
7. A Christian friend shares with you his desire to be baptized as a new follower of Jesus Christ. But, since he was baptized as an infant, his parents and extended family would see his adult baptism as a criticism and betrayal of the family. How would you advise this friend to proceed?

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