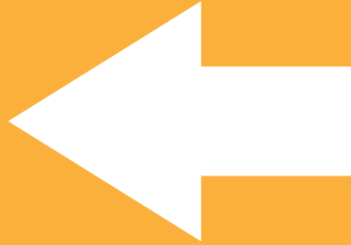


BE BAPTIZED



The following is an outline that is helpful for teaching the command of Jesus to be baptized.

PART ONE Looking back



PRAYER



Begin the time in prayer together.

ACCOUNTABILITY



Ask questions about commitments that were made.
For example, ask:

- Did you share the story from last time with anyone?
- Did you read or listen to the Bible daily?
- How did you obey what God taught you?
- Do you have any prayer requests or stories you would like to share?

PART TWO
Looking up



STUDY



Teach about the command of Jesus to be baptized by studying the Bible together. First read a time when Jesus gave the command and discuss a true story which illustrates what obeying the command can be like.

Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus gives a clear command to his followers to baptize disciples in his name. Part of following Jesus is being baptized.

Acts 8:26-39:

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or

about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

After reading the story, review the story in one of these ways:

- Tell the story from memory.
- Talk about the story. What happened?
- Tell or read the story again.
- Do a drama illustrating the story.
- Draw pictures illustrating the story.

After reviewing the story, discuss the following questions based on the story:

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about man?
- What should we not do?
- What should we do?

After discussing these generic questions, the following may be helpful for this specific story.

Discuss the following:

- What is baptism?
Read Romans 6:3-4. Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism also means we have died to our old life and have been raised to live a new life with Jesus.
- Why should we be baptized?
Read Matthew 3:13-15. Jesus received baptism, and we should also. Receiving baptism means that we identify Jesus as our Lord.
- Who should be baptized?
Read Acts 2:38-41. Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus should receive baptism.

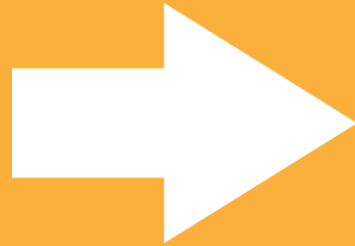
- How should we be baptized?
Read Matthew 3:13-17. Jesus went down into the water. Baptism should be by immersion in water.

PRACTICE



Discuss how and where to be baptized.
Go and baptize new believers.

PART THREE Looking ahead



COMMITMENT



Discuss what to obey from the story and the command of Jesus. Some ways to obey before meeting next are:

- Be baptized if you have not been baptized before.
- Tell the story (Acts 8:26-39) to other people.
- Study the Bible every day.

PRAYER



Close the time in prayer together.
Pray for the commitments everyone made.

For Kingdom Growth

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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this material for kingdom growth. Your service in the Lord is never in vain.