

BAPTISM: CELEBRATION OF GRACE

ACTS 2:36-41

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MAY 3, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:36-41 (ESV)

REACH ONE

REACH ONE - *Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.*

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Do you know any of the brothers and sisters who were baptized today? What testimonies and stories today were particularly relatable?

SERMON RECAP

Baptism is a public demonstration of our initial identification with Jesus Christ and His church.

WHY should I be baptized?

- To follow the example of Christ. (Matthew 3:13-17)
- To obey the command of Christ. (Matthew 28:19)
- To unite with the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

WHAT is the meaning of baptism?

- Baptism is a celebration of the grace of Christ. (Romans 6:3-4)
- Baptism is an illustration of the gospel of Christ.
- Baptism is a declaration of the glory of Christ. (Colossians 2:11-15)

HOW should I be baptized?

- The most biblical mode of baptism is immersion. (Acts 8:37-39)

WHO should be baptized?

- Everyone who has been born again should be baptized.

WHEN should I be baptized?

- You should be baptized when you trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Summarize the events leading up to Acts 2:36-41. Who is preaching? What is the occasion?
2. Who is listening to Peter preach? How is their guilt before God highlighted in these verses? (vv. 36-38, 40)
3. How does Peter call them to respond? To whom does this invitation extend? (vv. 38-39)
4. Who was baptized at the end of the passage? To what group were they "added"? (v. 41; cf. 1:15)

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Jesus is identified as "Lord and Christ" in verse 36. What does this mean? (see Joel 2:28-32; Psalm 110:1)
2. What effect does Peter's sermon have on his listeners? How is conviction of sin different from actual repentance? (v. 37)

3. Does Peter's instruction to "repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins" imply that baptism is necessary for salvation? Why or why not? (cf. Mark 1:15)
4. In this passage, how is baptism a means of identification both with Christ (v. 38) and His church (v. 41)?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Pastor David prayed that today's celebration would have an effect on three different groups of people:
 - That those who have not yet trusted in Christ would realize the depth of God's personal love for them.
 - That those who have not yet been baptized as a follower of Jesus would decide to be baptized.
 - That those who have been baptized would be encouraged, challenged, comforted, and convicted by today's baptism testimonies.
2. Baptism is an important act of obedience to Christ. In what areas of life have you been putting obedience "on hold"?
3. Pray for the gospel to continue to bear fruit in the lives of those who were baptized today.

LEADER NOTES

For those interested in being baptized, there is a baptism class coming up at Tysons on May 17 from 1-2 pm in the Large Prayer Room off the lobby. Registration is open at mcleanbible.org/classes.