



Baptism is a public declaration of ones faith



BIG IDEA

Baptism does not save us, Jesus does.
Baptism is the first step of obedience that publicly identifies us with Jesus and symbolizes the death of our old life and the beginning of new life in Him.



ICE BREAKER

1. Have you ever made a public declaration that marked an important moment in your life?
2. What comes to mind when you think about baptism?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptized even though He was without sin?



MAIN POINTS

Jesus set the example – Before Jesus ever commanded baptism, He chose to be baptized Himself. Baptism was a pivotal moment in His ministry and an example for us to follow.

Faith must become personal – John calling Jewish people to be baptized was radical because it challenged them to move beyond religion, tradition, and family heritage into a real and personal faith in God.

Baptism is symbolic – Going under the water represents death to the old life. Coming out of the water represents resurrection and new life in Christ.

Baptism is a declaration – Like a wedding ring publicly declares marriage, baptism publicly declares our commitment and identity in Jesus.

Baptism follows belief – Throughout Scripture, the pattern is clear: believe first, then be baptized. Baptism is the first step of obedience for someone following Jesus.

Obedience is rarely convenient – Jesus never called people to wait until life was perfect before following Him. Baptism is about surrender and obedience, not readiness or perfection.



DISCUSS

1. Why do you think baptism was so important to Jesus?
2. What stood out to you most from the symbolism of baptism?
3. Have you ever struggled to make your faith personal rather than just cultural or traditional?
4. What fears or hesitations keep people from taking the step of baptism?
5. How does baptism serve as a public declaration of faith?



NEXT STEP


If you have placed your faith in Jesus but have never been baptized, take your next step and publicly declare your faith through baptism.

This week:

- Read Matthew 3:13–17 and Romans 6:4.
- Reflect on what it means to leave the old life behind and follow Jesus fully.
- If you have questions about baptism, talk with your campus staff or ministry leader.



Titus 3:4–5

SCRIPTURE	Matthew 3:13–17 John 1:29 Romans 6:4 Galatians 3:26–27 Matthew 28:19–20 Acts 2:38 Acts 8:13
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next week as Pastor Shan continues the series What's the Deal With... the Trinity.

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com