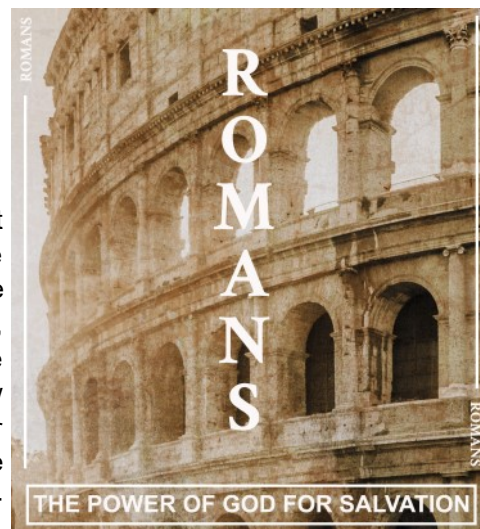


Baptism & the Boat

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.



1. Baptism Is More Than a Ceremony
2. The Bible Says Baptism Is Like Getting in a Boat
3. Jesus Is the True Ark
4. Baptism Tells the World: "I'm in the Boat"
5. There Are Only Two Options
6. Religion vs. the Gospel

Small Group Discussion Guide

1 Peter 3:18–22

Getting Started

What's your most memorable (best or worst) experience on a boat?

Digging Deeper

(Read 1 Peter 3:18–22 aloud as a group)

1. **Noah's Ark as a Foreshadowing of Christ** - Peter draws a connection between Noah's ark and Christian baptism. Do some research or share what you've heard—how have people seen Noah's ark as a picture or foreshadowing of Jesus and His saving work?
2. **Baptism and the Flood** - Peter says baptism is like Noah and his family being brought safely through the flood. In what ways are the two similar?
3. **Entering the Ark / Entering Christ** - How did someone enter the ark in Noah's day? How does a person "get into" Christ today?
4. **The Only Way Through** - There was only one ark that made it through the flood. What are some examples of "canoes" or "floaties" people use today to try and save themselves spiritually—alternatives to trusting in Christ?
5. **Understanding 1 Peter 3:21** - Peter writes, "This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also..."
 - What does Peter mean that baptism "saves" us?
 - He clarifies that it's *not* "the removal of dirt from the body." What does this suggest about what water baptism does *not* accomplish?
 - Peter describes baptism as "an appeal to God for a good conscience." What does this imply about the person's heart before entering the water?
 - What does it mean that there must be a kind of "baptism" before the act of water baptism?

6. **Symbol vs. Source** - Baptism doesn't save us in and of itself, but it's a powerful picture of the salvation we have in Christ. How would you explain this distinction to someone who's new to faith?
7. **Personal Reflection** - If you've been baptized, what did it mean to you? If not, what questions or thoughts are you currently wrestling with?

Bonus Question: This passage is known for being challenging. What do you think Peter means by Jesus "preaching to the spirits in prison"? (Feel free to explore different interpretations or focus on why Peter might include this detail in his encouragement.)

Closing

To wrap up, re-read the entire passage and invite the group to ask any remaining questions or share final thoughts. Let the remaining time be guided by curiosity and Scripture.