



Doggy Bag: *Something to Chew On and Ponder This Week.*

1. Recall a baptism that deeply affected you. It could be your own, a loved one's, or one you've witnessed. How did it impact you?
2. Why do you think Jesus needed to be baptized by John? What does that tell you about Christian community?
3. In verse 8, John says he will baptize with water, but the one who comes after him will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
 - a. What does water symbolize in baptism? Where else in the Bible has water been important?
 - b. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in baptism? What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?
4. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children. What is one thing you can do this week to help you live in awareness that you are God's beloved child in your current life situation? What is a way you can help others to know that they are loved?

Additional Readings to Explore This Week on Baptism:

- Sunday – Mark 1:4-12
- Monday – Matthew 3:13-17
- Tuesday – Acts 19:1-7
- Wednesday – Luke 3:1-20
- Thursday – Luke 3:21-22
- Friday – John 1:19-28
- Saturday – John 1:29-34



Root 1: Baptism (And Confirmation)
Mark 1:4 – 12 | Matthew 28:16 - 20

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Reflect on the baptisms that you have experienced in worship. What words or memories come to mind? Were those experiences perceived as a momentary action or as the beginning of a lifelong process?

In the United Methodist Church, baptism is one of two sacraments practiced. A sacrament, which means a vow or promise, is an outward and **VISIBLE** sign of an inward and **SPIRITUAL** grace.

WHAT HAPPENS IN BAPTISM?

1. **Baptism names and claims us as _____.**

And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11)

- Baptism is the sacrament of **INITIATION** into the body of Christ, the **Church**, which joins the new member to Christians everywhere.

2. Baptism _____ us in community.

And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins...

... In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. (Mark 1:5, 9)

3. In baptism we receive the _____ and in response are sent out into the _____.

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days... (Mark 1:12 – 13)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

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 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you... (Mt. 28:19 – 20)

Questions We Ask in Our Baptism Liturgy (and in Confirmation)

- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?
- According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?
- As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

THE MAIN POINT:

In baptism, you are called beloved, empowered with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and are united with the struggles and joys in the church community.

Confirmation, then, is the first time a baptized Christian publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a **professing member** of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church.

TODAY'S CALL TO ACTION:

Have you been baptized (or confirmed your faith)? If not, why not? How can Community of Faith support your next steps?