



WELCOME
to
RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Big Lake
Buffalo
Sauk Rapids

June 7, 2026

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What one thing or picture would you choose to show someone from a different country when they ask you what American culture means to you?

- 1.** Pastor Tom said in regard to Jesus' baptism that, "Jesus identified Himself with the sinful condition of humanity which He had come to save." When we are baptized, what specifically are we identifying with — and who are we declaring ourselves to belong to?
- 2.** Pastor Tom said, "Baptism is an outward sign and symbol of what has happened inwardly, personally and spiritually to a person when they say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord." The imagery of going under the water and coming back up pictures a death and a resurrection. What did God do for you in that moment that you could never do for yourself; and how does that change how you live with Him from that point on?
- 3.** Why do we only need to be baptized once and not every time we sin?
- 4.** What important thing did Pastor Tom say baptism does not do? What are some important declarations about us that our baptism symbolizes?
- 5.** Who benefits from the public display of our baptism and how?

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

Day One: John 8; Psalm 20

Day Two: Deuteronomy 17; Proverbs 15

Day Three: Romans 14; 2 Corinthians 3

Day Four: 1 John 5; Ezekiel 47

Day Five: Ecclesiastes 4; Acts 2



Milestones - Part 4 "A Different Kind of Milestone"

Pastor Tom Lundeen | June 7, 2026

Today let's talk about a different kind of milestone, one that is personal on the one hand, but on the other hand is an important celebration for the whole church family, too. It's a milestone for everyone to take who has already said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord, and that is water baptism:

1. What the New Testament Teaches About _____ Baptism

A. Meaning of baptism = "Baptizo" = "to _____to immerse"

- *I would have those who are to be baptized to be _____ immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies.*
(Martin Luther)
- *The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the _____ church.* (John Calvin)
- *Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the _____ of the first church.* (John Wesley)

B. John the Baptist - his ministry shows us that baptism was not a new idea _____ by Christians, or even by John the Baptist.

- Baptism = always a _____ act.
- John the " _____ " practiced a baptism that symbolized repentance (note **Matthew 3:7-11a**).

C. Baptism of Jesus - His baptism symbolized:

- It was to "fulfill _____ righteousness" (note **Matthew 3:15**).
- Fulfilled the mission of John the Baptist and marked the _____ of Jesus' public ministry.
- Jesus _____ Himself with the sinful condition of humanity which He had come to save.
- It is an _____ to all His followers.

D. Other New Testament Examples - baptism practiced very soon after commitment to Jesus Christ, so much so that often baptism and salvation are closely _____ together:

- Acts 2, Pentecost
- Acts 8, Samaritan converts and Ethiopian government official
- Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus
- Acts 16, Lydia of Thyatira and Philippian jailer and his household
- Acts 18, Believers in Corinth
- Acts 19, Ephesian disciples

Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of _____ baptism).

Note **Matthew 28:18-20**

Baptism is an outward _____ and symbol of what has happened inwardly/personally/and spiritually to a person when they say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

The _____ of baptism does not make anyone a Jesus follower... Paul - we can see that God used baptism to:

2. Make His Faith _____

For Saul/Paul to be baptized challenged his _____ heritage and education, as well as his pride. Note **Acts 9:18**

3. Connect with God's _____ (note **Acts 9:19b**)

Baptism was his invitation to also _____ with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem (note **Acts 9:26-28**).

Spiritual growth happens in relationships, not _____.



- 1 Come every Sunday
- 2 Be part of a group
- 3 Serve on a team

4. _____ Your Story (note **Acts 9:20**)

Baptism is both a _____ declaration of our faith and a sermon without words (note **Romans 6:4-5**).

Baptism sets us on a course to be both inviters (*come and sit with me*) and _____ (*here's what Jesus did for me*).

5. Keep Taking Next _____

Note **Acts 9:21, 22**. Baptism sets us on a course to taking next steps and growing _____ in our walk with Jesus. Note **Matthew 28:19**.

SO MY NEXT MILESTONE:

- Baptism isn't an _____ extra for Jesus followers.

Here are 3 qualifications you need to engage in baptism:

- You need to be a follower of Jesus.
- You need to have not been baptized as an adult believer in Christ already.
- You need to be at least 12 years old.

*(We do baptize children younger than 12 if they have parental support and have talked it through with our Riverside Kids (RK) leaders. RK also has a discipleship class called No Limits for children in 5th grade; they are given a chance to engage in baptism after completing this course.) Registration is open July 1 through Sept 1: **MYRC.CHURCH/NOLIMITS**.*

Don't get baptized:

- If you're not sure about following Jesus.
- If you're trying to impress others.

Take this important next step and be baptized at our summer baptism next Sunday, June 14th! Baptism coaches are available at the end of the service to help you begin to take this important next step of water baptism.



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Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of infant baptism).

Note **Matthew 28:18-20**

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