



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



# WELCOME *to* RIVERSIDE CHURCH

*Big Lake  
Buffalo  
Sauk Rapids*

*June 7, 2026*



**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>! Baptism coaches are available at the end of the service to help you begin to take this important next step of water baptism.



**Milestones - Part 4**  
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**1. What the New Testament Teaches About Water Baptism**

- A.** Meaning of baptism = "Baptizo" = "to dip...to immerse"
  - *I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely 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 ancient church.* (John Calvin)
  - *Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.* (John Wesley)
- B.** John the Baptist - his ministry shows us that baptism was not a new idea invented by Christians, or even by John the Baptist.
  - Baptism = always a symbolic act.
  - John the "Baptizer" practiced a baptism that symbolized repentance (note **Matthew 3:7-11a**).
- C.** Baptism of Jesus - His baptism symbolized:
  - It was to "fulfill all righteousness" (note **Matthew 3:15**).
  - Fulfilled the mission of John the Baptist and marked the start of Jesus' public ministry.
  - Jesus identified Himself with the sinful condition of humanity which He had come to save.
  - It is an example 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 tied together:
  - Acts 2, Pentecost
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  - 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 infant baptism).

Note **Matthew 28:18-20**

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

**2. Make His Faith Known**

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

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

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

Spiritual growth happens in relationships, not isolation.



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

Baptism is both a public 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 witnesses (*here's what Jesus did for me*).

**5. Keep Taking Next Steps**

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

**SO MY NEXT MILESTONE:**

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

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