

FOUNDATIONS

| SESSION 3 |

GOING PUBLIC

With Your Faith

UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL BAPTISM

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism
into death: that like as Christ was raised up
from the dead... even so we also should
walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:4



jackson
revival center church

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PART 1

Why Jesus Was Baptized



BIG IDEA

Jesus was baptized not because He needed cleansing, but because He chose complete obedience to the Father's will.

One of the first questions people ask is:

After all,

- Jesus had no sin.
- He never failed.
- He never needed forgiveness.

Yet He still insisted on being baptized.



MATTHEW 3:14

"I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?"

John understood something profound.

Jesus was unlike anyone else who had ever stepped into those waters.



MATTHEW 3:15

"Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness."

Jesus was not seeking forgiveness.

He was demonstrating complete obedience.



KEY TRUTH

If the sinless Son of God willingly submitted to baptism, how much more should those He has redeemed?

TRANSITION: Jesus did not merely teach obedience.

He modeled obedience.

And baptism became one of the very first ways believers demonstrated that they belonged to Him.



REFLECTION

What area of obedience is God asking me to take publicly?



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OBEDIENCE ALWAYS COMES BEFORE ASSIGNMENT

Jesus' baptism marked the public beginning of His earthly ministry.

Notice the order.

- ✓ Heaven opened.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit descended.
- ✓ The Father publicly affirmed the Son.

Before Jesus preached...
Before He healed...
Before He called disciples...
He obeyed.

God often entrusts greater responsibility to those who first demonstrate simple obedience.



LIVE IT *This Week*

Baptism is more than a moment. It is a declaration. It is a decision to live publicly for Jesus.

This week:

- 📖 Study Romans 6:1-4.
- 👥 Talk to someone about what baptism means.
- 💧 Obey God in one area He has already revealed.
- ❤️ Prepare your heart for a life fully surrendered.

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PART 3

What Baptism Is NOT

Understanding what baptism is requires understanding what baptism is *not*.



1. BAPTISM IS NOT SALVATION

This is one of the most important truths in today's lesson. We are saved by grace through faith, Ephesians 2:8–9
"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."
The thief on the cross was never baptized. Yet Jesus said, "Today shall thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
Baptism is important. But baptism does not save. Jesus saves.



2. BAPTISM IS NOT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Many people confuse joining a church with following Christ. You can be a member of a church and never truly know Jesus. Baptism identifies us first with Christ—Then with His Church.



3. BAPTISM IS NOT A FAMILY TRADITION

Some people were baptized because their family expected it. Others because everyone else was doing it. Still others because it was simply part of a religious ceremony. Biblical baptism is always connected to personal faith and personal obedience.



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

Throughout Scripture, faith always comes before baptism.
Repent. Believe. Be baptized.
That order never changes.



REFLECTION

*Have I ever misunderstood the purpose of baptism?
What truth from this lesson helps me see it more clearly?*

THE HEART OF BAPTISM

Baptism is not about religion—it's about

a relationship.

It is the outward expression of an inward transformation.

It declares:

- ✓ I have turned from sin.
- ✓ I have trusted in Jesus.
- ✓ I am no longer my own.
- ✓ I now belong to Him.



LIVE IT *This Week*

Make sure your decision to be baptized is your decision.

Not because of pressure.

Not because of tradition.

Not because of anyone else.

But because Jesus has changed you.

This week:

- 📖 Read Acts 2:38 and 8:36–38.
- 👥 Talk to a believer about why they were baptized.
- 💧 Ask God to confirm your heart's decision.
- ❤️ Prepare your heart to follow Him in obedience.

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PART 4

Why Immediate Baptism Was Common in Acts

When we read the Book of Acts, something becomes clear. People did not delay baptism.



ACTS 8:36

The Ethiopian eunuch believed. Then he immediately asked: *“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”*



ACTS 2:41

Those who believed on the Day of Pentecost were baptized. *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*



ACTS 16:33

The Philippian jailer believed. Then he was baptized. *“And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes: and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”*



ACTS 10:47–48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the Word. Then they were baptized. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”*



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

Notice the pattern: Believe. Be baptized. Believers did not spend years debating obedience. They responded quickly. Why? Because delayed obedience is still disobedience. The early church understood that baptism was not an optional extra. It was an expected response to salvation.



REFLECTION

What stands out to me about the early church’s response? How does it challenge my own heart today?



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

OBEDIENCE DOES NOT WAIT.

The early church modeled what Jesus taught:

“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

LUKE 6:46

Immediate baptism was their way of saying, *“I am committed.”*

Faith without obedience remains incomplete.

Baptism is the bridge between private belief and public commitment.



LIVE IT *This Week*

Don’t delay what God has already made plain.

If you have believed in Jesus, take the next step in obedience.

This week:



Read Acts 2:41, 8:36, 16:33, and 10:47–48.



Ask God if there is any area of obedience you’ve delayed.



If you have not been baptized, take the step.



If you have, encourage someone else to obey.

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PART 5

Why Public Identification Matters

We live in a world where people publicly identify with many things—their teams, their causes, their brands, their careers.

Yet some believers hesitate to identify publicly with Christ.

Baptism is God's way of saying:

"I belong to You."

WHY PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION MATTERS



1. IT HONORS CHRIST.

When we are baptized, we honor Jesus by showing the world that He is Lord of our lives.

ROMANS 10:9–10



2. IT INSPIRES OTHERS.

Your public decision can encourage someone else who is still considering following Jesus.

MATTHEW 5:16



3. IT MAKES A DECLARATION.

Baptism is your "Yes" to the Gospel. It is your testimony in action.

MARK 8:38



4. IT STRENGTHENS YOUR COMMITMENT.

Going public creates a reminder that you belong to Jesus. It helps anchor you when life gets challenging.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12



5. IT REFLECTS YOUR NEW LIFE.

Baptism is the evidence that God has already begun a transforming work in you.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



REFLECTION

Why do you think public identification is so important?
What would change in your life if you fully owned your faith?



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

IDENTITY IS NOT JUST INTERNAL—
IT IS ALSO EXTERNAL.

Baptism makes your faith visible.
It declares what is already true in your heart.
We don't go public to gain approval.
We go public to honor the One
who saved us and sent us.

MATTHEW 10:32–33

*"Whosoever therefore shall confess me
before men, him will I confess also before
my Father which is in heaven."*



LIVE IT *This Week*

Don't just believe in Jesus privately.
Let your life reflect Him publicly.

This week:



Share your baptism story with
someone you trust.



Encourage someone who is
thinking about being baptized.



If you haven't been baptized,
pray and ask God to give you
boldness to take that step.



Live each day in a way that
honors the decision you have
already made.



Remember: You belong to Jesus.
Walk like it.

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PART 6

The Meaning of Baptism Today

Baptism is more than a tradition—it is a Spirit-led act filled with meaning, purpose, and eternal significance.

Through baptism, we are:



1 UNITED WITH CHRIST

Baptism unites us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

ROMANS 6:3–4



2 IDENTIFIED WITH HIS DEATH

We identify with Christ's death to sin so we can live a new life in Him.

ROMANS 6:6



3 RAISED TO NEW LIFE

Just as Christ was raised, we are now called to walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:4



4 ADMITTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Baptism is a public declaration that you now belong to the Lord and to His people.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13



5 EQUIPPED FOR THE MISSION

Baptism is not the end—it is the beginning of a life empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's purpose.

ACTS 1:8



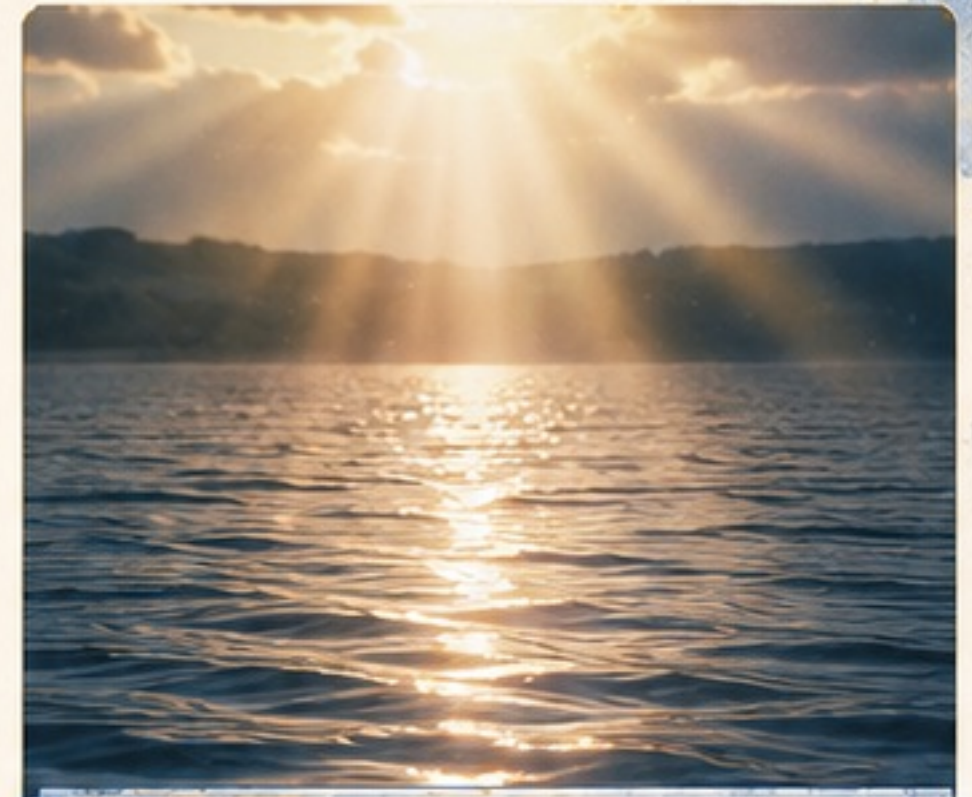
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Baptism is not magic. It does not save. It is not a religious ritual. It is a step of obedience that aligns your life with the truth of the Gospel.



REFLECTION

How has your understanding of baptism grown?
What does baptism personally mean to you?



*“And now why tarriest thou?
arise, and be baptized, and
wash away thy sins, calling on
the name of the Lord.”*

ACTS 22:16



LIVE IT *This Week*

Baptism is a decision.
But its impact is lifelong.
Live out what your baptism declares.

This week:



Review Romans 6:1–14.



Share with someone why you were baptized.



If you haven't been baptized, pray and take that step.



Live out your new identity daily.



Walk in obedience to the One who called you.

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PART 7

What If I Was Baptized as a Child?

Many believers were baptized as infants. But the Bible calls us to a personal decision to follow Jesus.

It's not about what happened to you—it's about what you choose for yourself today.



THREE IMPORTANT TRUTHS

- 1 CHILDHOOD BAPTISM WAS ABOUT OTHERS' FAITH.**
It was your parents' faith and the faith of the church speaking over your life.
- 2 ADULT BAPTISM IS YOUR FAITH RESPONDING.**
It is your personal declaration that Jesus is Lord.
- 3 GOD HONORS OBEDIENCE AT ANY STAGE.**
Whether you are young or old, God celebrates when you take this step for yourself.



REFLECTION

*Do I need to take the step of baptism as my own decision?
What is keeping me from going public with my faith?*



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

YOUR TESTIMONY, YOUR DECLARATION

Baptism is not for your past.
It is for your future.
It allows you to publicly share
what God has done in your life.
It's your story.
It's your "yes."

MATTHEW 10:32–33

*"Whosoever therefore shall confess me
before men, him will I confess also before
my Father which is in heaven."*



LIVE IT *This Week*

If you have never been baptized as an adult believer, consider taking that step.
If you have, share your testimony and encourage someone else.

This week:

-  Read Acts 8:12–13 and 16:30–33.
-  Share your testimony with someone.
-  If you haven't been baptized, pray and prepare your heart.
-  Encourage a friend who is ready to take this step.
-  Plan to celebrate what God is doing in your life!

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Discussion Questions

*Take time to reflect on what you've learned.
Be honest. Be prayerful. Be transformed.*

- 1 Why do you think Jesus, who had no sin, chose to be baptized? What does that teach you about obedience and example?

- 2 What does baptism represent according to Romans 6:3–4? How does this symbolism impact the way you live today?

- 3 How does going public with your faith through baptism strengthen your commitment to follow Jesus?

- 4 If you haven't been baptized, what is holding you back? What is your next step?



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SPIRITUAL GROWTH
HAPPENS THROUGH
REFLECTION
AND APPLICATION.

God's Word is not just
something we learn—
it is something
we live out.

Take time to process
what you've learned,
apply it to your life,
and watch God
transform you
from the inside out.



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Personal Reflection & Next Steps

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

1 JOHN 1:7

How does what you've learned about baptism impact
the way you will live, serve, and share your faith?

What is one practical step you will take this week
to live out your baptism honestly?

Who can you encourage or disciple this week
by sharing what baptism means to you?



A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*Lord, thank You for the gift of baptism.
Thank You for calling me Yours and giving me a new life in Christ.
Help me to live boldly, follow faithfully,
and always remember that I belong to You.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



FOUNDATION INSIGHT

**GOD CALLS US TO GO PUBLIC
BECAUSE HE WORKS IN US
PRIVATELY.**

Baptism is the bridge
between what God
has done in your heart
and what He is calling
you to live out in the world.

*Your story matters.
Your yes matters.
Your obedience
inspires others.*



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Putting It Into Practice

Faith that stays private stays weak. Faith that goes public grows strong.

Choose one or more action steps to live out this truth.



1. GO DEEPER IN THE WORD

Scripture is the foundation that prepares us for obedience and empowers our obedience.

My plan: _____



2. SHARE YOUR STORY

Your testimony is a tool God can use to encourage and reach others.

My plan: _____



3. TAKE THE STEP

If you haven't been baptized, prayerfully consider taking this next step of obedience.

My plan: _____



4. ENCOURAGE SOMEONE ELSE

Invite someone to take this step with you or encourage them in their journey.

My plan: _____



5. STAY COMMITTED

Obedience is not a one-time moment, it's a lifestyle of surrender.

My plan: _____



A PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Lord,

*Thank You for rescuing me
and giving me new life.*

*Thank You for the gift of baptism
and the privilege of going public
with my faith.*

Today, I choose obedience.

*Today, I choose to follow You
with my whole heart.*

*Use my life to bring glory to You
and to point others to Jesus.*

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



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Baptism is not the end—it is the beginning of a life of obedience. What begins in the water must continue in your walk. Stay close to God. Stay in His Word. Stay surrendered.

*Obedience today
transforms tomorrow.*

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YOU TOOK THE STEP.

Now live it out.

Baptism is more than a moment—
it's a lifelong commitment to follow Jesus.

As you continue to grow in your faith,
may you walk in obedience, share your story,
and point others to the One who saves.

“

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*

MATTHEW 28:19



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