



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:  
Believe & Be Baptized Week 3: March 3, 2019**

Recap:

- In Jesus, we are given an invitation to follow a new life. In this new life, we should learn to live like Jesus. When we follow the new life, we are living out the Kingdom of Heaven. This invitation is a choice for us to make.
- Belief in Jesus isn't an intellectual acceptance of the life, death, and resurrection. Belief is the recognition that Jesus's life, death, and resurrection matters for you. Belief and baptism go together because they are about trusting the direction of your life to the way of Jesus, immersing yourself in the way of Jesus, becoming different as a result.
- Throughout the stories of scripture, we find stories of people going to river, lakes, and streams to symbolically display their immersion into the way of God.
- The act of baptism, being immersed in a river, lake, pool, or a tub of water at church, is a very public way to declare that the old way has been washed away. You come out of the water making a statement that you believe, that you are immersing ourselves in the way of Jesus.

Discuss:

1. Have you been baptized before? If so, what were the circumstances?
2. READ Matthew 3:1-17
3. The practice of baptism was not new to Christianity. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized by John the Baptist?
4. John the Baptist says that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. How do you think Jesus's baptism differed from John's?
5. What do you think the scene must have been like at Jesus's baptism? What do you think onlookers thought?
6. READ Mark 16:15-16
7. Why do you think we are given a choice about believing and being baptized? What do you think this says about God?
8. What hang-ups do you think people have about baptism? What do you think is cause for hesitant for some people?
9. What are some ways you can encourage others to become baptized publicly?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Baptism

- Acts 10:23-48
- Romans 6:1-18
- Galatians 3:23-29