



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: Something In the Water Week 4: July 28, 2019**

### Recap:

- Naaman, a non-Jewish person, is told by Elisha, a prophet of God, to wash himself in the Jordan River to be cleansed of leprosy. He does so and then accepts the Jewish God.
- Jesus taught that everyone could follow God, experience his love, grace, and forgiveness, and live a new life.
- To invite people into this new reality, Jesus took the familiar act of being immersed in the water to represent a fresh start and new beginning for anyone who would follow.
- We are told that Jesus's disciples baptized people as a sign of this new life and at the end of his time on earth, he instructs his disciples to continue this important ritual.
- Water refreshes, restores and renews just like the teaching of Jesus. Through baptism, we are given an opportunity to not just say that we are giving up our old life, but an incredible picture of washing away our past and being made new as we follow Jesus.

### Discuss:

1. What's your experience with baptism?
2. READ 2 KINGS 5:1-19
3. Why do you think Naaman brought ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of clothing? What does this detail reveal to the reader about Naaman?
4. Why do you think Elisha only sends a messenger to speak to Naaman? Why do you think Elisha only speaks directly with Naaman after he washes himself in the Jordan River?
5. READ MATTHEW 3:1-2, 4-6, 13-17
6. Why do you think washing in the Jordan River was so important for the Jewish people?
7. What do you think Jesus means when he says "it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness"? How does Jesus's baptism do this?
8. READ MATTHEW 28:18-20
9. READ ROMANS 6:4-5
10. Of all the acts that Jesus could have requested his followers practice, why do you think he chose baptism?
11. What do you think are some people get negatively stuck on when it comes to baptism? What are some ways that you can help ease people or help them understand baptism?

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: Old Testament Readings about the Jordan River

- Joshua 3
- 2 Kings 2:1-8
- 2 Kings 6:1-7