



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

"We Believe in Baptism"

**Preached by Pastor Brady Boyd
27 April 2025**

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

R O M A N S 6 : 4 N I V

Summary

Have someone from your group read the following summary aloud.

This sermon captured a historic moment at New Life Church: Baptism Sunday, when nearly five hundred people took the bold step of being baptized—the largest number in the church's forty-year history. It was a powerful, Spirit-filled day that reflected the deep hunger for God moving throughout our community.

Pastor Brady framed the event not as a celebration of numbers but of stories—real lives being transformed by the love and grace of Jesus. The heart of the sermon centered on two main truths about baptism: First, baptism is an act of surrender. It's a public declaration that our lives no longer belong to ourselves; they belong to Christ. Second, baptism marks us as part of God's family. It's more than a personal experience; it's an adoption into a larger spiritual community. In baptism, we are not only identifying with Christ's death and resurrection, but we are also stepping into the eternal, global family of believers.

Pastor Brady emphasized that baptism isn't a graduation ceremony for "perfect" Christians. Not at all. Rather, it's a starting line for everyday people who have decided to trust Jesus with their lives. It's about imperfect people saying "yes" to a perfect Savior.

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Christian community and of being together today. As we talk about the meaning of baptism and the new life we have in Christ, would you help us tune in to what you're doing in us and around us? Give us the kind of awareness that notices your voice and wholeheartedly welcomes your work.

"Remind us that baptism is more than a moment—it's a declaration that our lives belong to you and a celebration that we're part of your family. Help us see the beauty of surrendering to you and the joy of walking in the new life you offer.

"We ask you to lead our conversation today, prompting us to be honest, encouraging, and responsive to your Spirit. Draw us closer to you and to one another as we share and learn together. Thank you for every life you're transforming, including our own. We love you. We praise you in Jesus' name, Amen."

Getting Going

Share of a time when you experienced a spiritual shift or a fresh start with God. What changed for you, and how did the experience shape your faith?"

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. What does it mean to truly surrender to Christ?
2. How does baptism symbolize dying to sin and being raised to new life?
3. Why is it significant that we cannot baptize ourselves?
4. What role does community play in our faith journey?
5. How does baptism serve as a public declaration of faith?
6. What changes in a person's life after he or she chooses to follow Jesus?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, take time to remember what God has done in your life—your baptism, your fresh start, or the moment you first knew you were his. Let gratitude rise. Then, look for someone who's just beginning their journey with Jesus. Offer them a word of encouragement, a prayer, or simply your friendship.

If you sense God stirring your heart toward baptism or a deeper step of faith, don't ignore it. Pray, ask questions, and trust that he's leading you closer to him.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- Baptism represents a complete surrender to Christ.
- Water baptism marks us as part of God's family.
- Our faith is personal but never meant to be private.
- Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to new life.
- The church community plays a vital role in supporting new believers.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer.

"Lord Jesus, thank you for the incredible gift of baptism—the visible sign of your invisible grace—and for the way it weaves us together as one family under your name. Thank you for reminding us today that we are not alone on this journey. You walk with us, and you surround us with brothers and sisters to lean on, learn from, and lift up.

"Help us to live as people truly changed by your love—people who don't just remember our baptism, but live into it daily with courage, humility, and joy. Teach us to support one another well, to cheer each other on in seasons of growth, and to stand firm together in seasons when questions outweigh answers and persistence is asking too much.

"We pray now for those who have just declared their faith in you through baptism. Protect their hearts. Strengthen their faith. Surround them with your peace and your people. May their roots go down deep into your love, and may their lives be living testimonies of your goodness.

"Lord, keep our hearts tender to the miracle of salvation. Let us never grow casual about the wonder of being made new in you. We love you, and we commit ourselves once again to your way, your truth, and your life. In your powerful name we pray, Amen."

Key Passage | Romans 6:1-4 NIV

These verses were highlighted during this week's sermon and appear here for your reference.

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that,

just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Verses for Further Study

- Matthew 28:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- Galatians 3:26-28
- Acts 2:38-39
- Galatians 3:26-27

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