



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Baptism Sunday

Preached by Mateo Mendoza

October 25, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Mateo explores the deep theological significance of baptism through the lens of water as a recurring symbol throughout Scripture. From the Spirit hovering over the waters in Genesis to the river of life flowing from God's throne in Revelation, water marks the story of God's redemption. Baptism is presented as a clear and powerful picture of God's story in which every believer is invited to participate.

Pastor Mateo outlines three key symbolisms of baptism: our **union** with Christ (being buried with Him in death and raised to new life), our **identity** in Christ (being called beloved children of God, just as Jesus was at His baptism), and our **place** in God's family (recognizing that following Jesus is never meant to be done alone). The sermon calls both those being baptized and us to embrace these truths and commit to walking alongside one another in the journey of faith.

Key Passages

- Revelation 21:3-6
- Revelation 22:1
- Revelation 22:17
- Romans 6:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Galatians 2:20
- Ephesians 1:4
- Matthew 3:13-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Opening Prayer

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

Heavenly Father, we come before you today grateful for the gift of your Son, Jesus, and the new life we have in Him. As we gather to discuss what it means to be united with Christ, to carry his identity, and to belong to His family, we ask that you open our hearts and minds. Holy Spirit, have your way in this conversation. Let us not simply gain knowledge, but let us be transformed by the truth of your Word. Speak to each person here in the way they most need to hear from you today. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one of your favorite memories involving water – whether it's a pool, a lake, the ocean, or even a rainstorm?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Mateo described baptism as 'a clear picture of God's story that we have been invited to participate in.' What does it mean to be a participant in God's story rather than just an observer?
2. Romans 6:3-4 says we are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. What does it look like practically to 'walk in newness of life' in your day-to-day routine?
3. The sermon emphasized that sin, shame, and condemnation no longer belong to us as followers of Jesus. Is there an area of your life where you still feel defined by past failures? How does the truth of being buried with Christ speak to that?
4. Pastor Mateo referenced Matthew 3:13-17, where God the Father says of Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' He then said that because we are united with Christ, God says the same thing about us. How does that truth challenge or encourage you?
5. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to become sin so that we might become the righteousness of God. How does understanding that God sees you as righteous change the way you see yourself and the way you relate to Him?

6. The sermon described baptism as a pledge between the person being baptized, the congregation, and God. What responsibilities do you think the church community has toward someone who is newly baptized or newly following Jesus?
7. Pastor Mateo said, 'We cannot follow Jesus without one another.' Where in your own faith journey have you experienced the importance of Christian community? Where do you need to lean into community more right now?
8. If you have been baptized, what do you remember about that moment? How does looking back at your baptism encourage or challenge your faith today? If you have not been baptized, what questions or hesitations do you have about taking that step?

Making It Personal

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

This week, identify one person in your church community, whether it's someone newly baptized, new to faith, or who you sense God has placed on your heart, and take a concrete step toward supporting them. This could be sending an encouraging message, inviting them to coffee, or simply committing to pray for them by name each day. At the same time, spend a few minutes each morning this week reminding yourself of this truth: 'I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.' Let that reality shape how you respond to temptation, discouragement, and the opinions of others.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- Baptism is a picture of our union with Christ. We are buried with him in his death, and our sin and shame are left on the cross. We are also raised with him into new life, no longer defined by our past.
- Because we are united with Christ, our identity is rooted in what God says about Jesus: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' God sees us through the righteousness of Christ, not through our failures.
- Baptism is a picture of our place in God's family. No one follows Jesus alone. The church is called to actively walk alongside those who are newly baptized and to support one another throughout the journey of faith.
- Water is a consistent and powerful symbol throughout all of Scripture, from creation to the new creation in Revelation, pointing to God's ongoing work of renewal, cleansing, and life.
- Paul's instruction in Romans 6:11 to 'consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus' is an active, daily choice to embrace our new identity and to stop returning to what Christ has already buried.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of new life in you. Thank you that our sin and shame have been buried with you on the cross and that we have been raised to walk in newness of life. As we leave this time together, help us to truly consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to you. May we carry our identity as your beloved sons and daughters into every room we walk into this week. Give us the courage to walk alongside one another, to be the kind of community that reflects your love to a watching world. Holy Spirit, seal the truths we have discussed today deep in our hearts. Let them not just be ideas we agree with, but realities we live from. We pray all of this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**