



Small Group Study Guide for January 13, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Baptism of Jesus was another demonstration of His desire to identify with us, take our sin upon himself, and redeem us through His sacrifice. Our Baptism is a connection with Jesus and God's gift to us of adoption, forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit. It says a lot about who we are and whose we are.

Getting Started:

1. Share an encounter you have had with dirty water. Was it a muddy swamp? A mop bucket? When was a time when you either fell in or got wet with dirty water?
2. Do you have any secret stain removers? What are your methods for getting out stains in clothing?

In the Word: Luke 3:15-22

3. John the Baptizer was preparing the way for Jesus by having people confess their sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins in the Jordan River. John pointed people to the Coming One, who would also baptize. Jesus would also baptize with water, but how else would Jesus baptize? (vs. 16) What do you think these two elements refer to exactly?
4. Read **Acts 2:36-39**. How does this relate to John's words about how Jesus would baptize?
5. If you are wondering how Jesus might baptize with fire, look to verse 17 for a description of what that fire does.
6. What three big things happened when Jesus was baptized by John? (vs. 21-22)

Read Romans 6:3-11

7. In what way do you think we were “buried with Christ through baptism into His death”? Is there a part of us that dies or is done away with in baptism?

8. What does it mean to “be raised with Christ” in our baptism? How does that connect with the end of verse 4 and verse 11?

9. What is the result of this “dying” and “rising” with Christ in our baptism? See verse 6, 12, and 14.

Putting it all Together

10. Baptism is a onetime event with long lasting effects. Based on what you have read, what are the effects of Baptism on the baptized believer?

11. What is the connection between Baptism and the work of the Holy Spirit?

12. Since the apostolic age, Christians have baptized whole households, including infants, when people come to faith in Christ. Based on what you read, what benefits does baptism bring to an infant or small child? (Is there anything in these verses about baptism that would not apply to a child?)

13. How might you share with a friend who asks you, “What does your baptism mean to you?”

Note: Did you know? There are brochures in the church lobby called “Getting Ready for Adult Baptism” and “Getting Ready for Infant/Child Baptism” with information on how to receive the gift of Baptism at OSL. These are also available on our website.

Prayer: Thank God for His gift of baptism, and for calling us by name so that we can call Him our heavenly Father. Pray that God would call more and more people to faith in Christ, and that we would continue to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them as Jesus would have us do.

Next Week: We start a new preaching series called “The Way We Worship” about the order of service in Lutheran churches so that we can have a richer and deeper understanding of the way we worship Jesus.