



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: Matthew 3:13-17

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. It was a little awkward when Jesus came to be baptized. How did John respond and what did he say to Jesus? (vs. 14)
4. How would you define the word "Righteousness" in the context of Jesus' reply in verse 15?
5. What three big things happened when Jesus was baptized by John? (vs. 16-17)
6. Discuss the significance of the Father's words in verse 17.

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. How do the Father’s words at Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:17 apply to us at our baptism?

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 look at the Temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11, and how Jesus resisted the devil in our place so that He could be our perfect Savior and crush the head of the serpent.