



## I Have Decided Week 2 – To Be Baptized Now Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

### Scripture:

"The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."

Acts 22:14-16

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

Matthew 3:13 (NLT)

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

### Reflection Questions:

- What is one spontaneous choice you've made in your life? Why did you do it?
- Have you been baptized by immersion? If so, what do you remember about your baptism experience?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)

- Read Acts 22:14-16. What do you notice about Ananias' words to Saul (who we know as Paul)?
- In the message, Eddie shared that in a world of schedules, there is something especially meaningful about someone making a bold decision on the spot, in the moment. Then, he shared, "if you begin doing what Jesus wants IN REAL-TIME, your growth will be OFF THE CHARTS." Is there something you know God wants you to do right now? What is it and what is holding you back?
- People often feel they need more information, knowledge, or understanding before taking a spiritual step. Do you ever notice this in yourself? When and why?
- Eddie shared, "God doesn't call us to be his experts. He calls us to be his witness." How do you react to that encouragement?
- Read Matthew 3:13. What do you notice about Jesus' example in his baptism?
- Read Jesus' words in Matthew 28:18-20. These are familiar verses to many believers; read them in several different translations if they're words you've heard often. What stands out about Jesus' commands here?
- In the message, Eddie said, "When Jesus wants something from you, don't schedule it - do it."
  - If you've never been baptized, what is holding you back? How can you explore that more?
  - Is there another part of Jesus' commands that you know you need to obey today? What can you do right now to follow him?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your time of reflection or discussion, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do.

### Looking for some ways to grow spiritually?

We have a new resource, the **Write it Down Journal**, which you can get at our Next Steps Area for a suggested donation of \$3 or access online at <https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/SpiritualJournal.pdf>. Writing things down is a simple spiritual practice that helps us pay attention to God and what he is teaching us.

Visit [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources) to see additional tools and resources.

### **Message Main Points and Scripture:**

- **When people realize Jesus died and rose from the dead for them, they want to respond.**
- **IN THE MOMENT, ON THE SPOT**
- Matthew 28:19 - Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- **baptism is the starting point, not the finish line**
- **if you begin doing what Jesus wants IN REAL-TIME, your growth will be OFF THE CHARTS**
- Acts 22:14-16 - "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."
- **"I have decided to be baptized now."**
- Acts 22:16 - "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."
- **TO IMITATE JESUS**
- Matthew 3:13 (NLT) - "Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him."
- **good people sometimes give bad advice about baptism**

- **TO OBEY JESUS**
- Matthew 28:18-20 - “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- **baptizo - to immerse**
- Matthew 3:16 - “After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water...”
- Acts 2:38 - “Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away — all who have been called by the Lord our God.”
- **Where do I go to be baptized?**
- **Can anyone be baptized today?**
- **Does it matter who baptizes me?**
- **Where do I go if someone I know (or love) is baptized?**
- **Does West Side use baptism robes?**
- **we’ve thought of everything!**