

Harvest Bible Chapel
Small Group Questions
July 19, 2009

Baptism

1. Baptism sometimes makes for humorous situations when everything does not go according to plan. Does anyone remember a funny moment they observed during a baptism service?
2. This would be a great week for those in your small group to share their testimony with the group. This will accomplish several things.
 - It will cause each member to examine the reality of their conversion.
 - It will give each member an opportunity to practice sharing their faith with a group of Christians in anticipation of sharing it with others.
 - Hearing the testimonies of others will encourage those who have seldom articulated their faith to grow in verbalizing their own testimony.

A testimony has three essential ingredients. Write out your answers to these three questions and then share them with the group.

 - What was your life like before you received Jesus?
 - How did you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior?
 - What has your life been like since you received Jesus?
(You should be able to frame your testimony in 3 minutes or less.)
3. Read Acts 8:26-40. What role did the scripture play in the Ethiopian's conversion? What role did it play in yours? Was there a particular section of scripture that the Lord used to awaken you to your need for salvation? Why do you think God sent Phillip to the Ethiopian? Does God still send people to help others understand the scripture? Has God ever used you like he did Phillip? Who is your "Ethiopian?" What questions did Phillip ask the Ethiopian? How could you rephrase those questions to share Christ with someone today? How much time do you think passed between the Ethiopian's conversion and his baptism? What lessons do we learn about baptism from the Ethiopian?
4. Misconceptions about baptism are common in church? Have any of these misconceptions about baptism been a part of your thinking.
 - Baptism as a way to wash away sin.
 - Baptism administered to infants.
 - Baptism as a means of salvation.
 - Baptism by some other method than immersion.
 - Baptism prior to genuine conversion.
 - Baptism for the dead.
 - Baptism is not very significant.
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why is baptism part of our mandate to make disciples and teach them to observe Jesus' commandments? What would you say about someone who claims to be a follower of Christ yet has no intention of being baptized?

6. Read Rom. 6:3-11. How many times do these verses reference “death”? Who’s death? How is dying symbolic of our conversion to Christ? What dies when we are saved? What do you do with an old man who dies? How does baptism picture this process?
7. Make sure everyone in your group has been scripturally baptized. Does anyone need to make themselves available to be baptized at the next opportunity.