



**BAPTISM STUDY:** *the purpose of this study is for you to reflect on what God says about this important spiritual milestone. No one will grade this, we promise 😊. When you're done, we'd love to talk with you in person to schedule your baptism and to hear your story about what God is doing in your life! Just bring this into the office or email it to us at [office@gracelawton.org](mailto:office@gracelawton.org)*

**Why we're lost without Jesus: Sin**

Read Genesis 2:15-17. Why do you think God gave this one command to Adam and Eve?

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Genesis 3:1-6. What does their response show you about human nature?

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Romans 5:12. What two things entered the world because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Sin is when we don't obey God. According to Romans 3:23, how bad is the sin problem?

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Romans 6:23. What are ALL the results of sin, both now and in eternity? \_\_\_\_\_

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The "death" that this verse is talking about is when we're separated from God. It means that we're spiritually separated now from His love and forgiveness and peace and power. And if we die separated from Him, then we remain separated from Him in eternity. But the good news is that God has provided a different way.

## The Solution

Even though we have all sinned and are separated from God, He still loves us and has provided a way for us to be forgiven.

Acts 13:38. Through whom do we have forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6. Who did Jesus say that he is in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

Read John 1:12 and John 3:16. What do we need to do to receive eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Only you (and God) know your own heart, so this is a question that only you can answer. Do you believe that Jesus died for you so that your sins could be forgiven? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 10:9-10. In addition to believing, this verse tells that we should **declare** or speak that Jesus is Lord. The word "Lord" is a very strong word that means that, from here on out, Jesus is our Master and He calls the shots for what we do and say. This verse, therefore, describes a major decision in our life where we "cross the line" and give our lives over to God. It doesn't mean that you'll be perfect and stop sinning; none of us can make *that* promise. But it means that we "pledge" (I Peter 3:21) to turn from our sins, and live for Christ with all our hearts. Is this a decision that you have made or are ready to make right now? \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** If you're ready to make this decision, speak to God in prayer right now. Whether it's out loud, a whisper, or just in your mind, He can hear you. Explain what you're feeling and what you're deciding. This is the most important decision you can make with Jesus. Make sure to take some time and fully understand it. It can be very helpful to ask another strong Christian to help you and pray with you.

Read Hebrews 13:5. What's the big idea of this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Baptism

In the Bible we see the pattern of expressing our faith in Jesus Christ includes being baptized after we believed in Jesus.

Matthew 28:19-20. What did Jesus command His followers to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:38. In this passage many people wanted to turn to God. What did Peter tell them to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:12. What did the people in Samaria do after they believed Philip's preaching?

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Acts 16:29-33. What's unique about the Philippian jailor's response to the message?

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The pattern of New Testament life is that people are baptized **after** they believe in Jesus. So baptism isn't what saves you or ensures the forgiveness of your sins.

Read Romans 6:1-11 and Colossians 2:12. What picture is given here of baptism?

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Baptism is a picture of our conversion: we die to our old way of living and, through Jesus, we live again. It's an *outer* symbol of the *inner* reality of God's work in our hearts.

At Grace Fellowship Church:

- a. **We practice baptism publicly.** Baptisms provide a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to witness what God has done in your life.
- b. **We don't baptize infants.** While we understand the reasons why other churches practice infant baptism, we believe the best biblical evidence is that people should be baptized only after they are old enough to express an understanding, conscious faith in Jesus Christ.
- c. **We usually baptize by immersion** of a person's entire body in water. This seems to be the Biblical pattern (Mt 3:16, Ac 8:38) and best pictures the idea of dying and rising to a new way of living.

### **The Most Important Part : Your Heart**

Why do you want to get baptized? *(if you're stumped, you could write about how you gave your life to Christ for the first time, or you could also describe how you believe Jesus has been changing you or blessing you)*

Dated:

**If this is a troubling question for you, read this optional section:**

#### **"DO YOU HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?"**

*Salvation is solely a gift given to people whose faith rests in the grace of God to forgive their sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus. For example, when the Philippian jailer asked what was required of him to be saved, Paul did not mention baptism but simply said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus." Likewise, the thief who died on the cross next to Jesus was promised by our Lord that "today you will be with me in Paradise," though he had not been baptized. Someone can be unbaptized and yet be a Christian who is destined for heaven.*

*Nonetheless, even though one can be a Christian without being baptized, a Christian should be baptized. If nothing else, Jesus commanded baptism to show in outward sign the inward covenant relationship we have with him. Similarly, married people are married regardless of whether they wear their wedding ring, which is the outward symbol of their inward covenant relationship. But I, for one, am glad that my wife wears her wedding ring.*

*Baptism is the biblical way in which we show that by the power of the Spirit, we died to our old way of life through the death of Jesus, and live a new life through the resurrection of Jesus, cleansed from our sin in the same way that water cleanses us from filth. Therefore, being baptized does not make someone a Christian. Not being baptized does not cause someone to stop being a Christian, but a Christian should be baptized.*

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