

Small Group Bible Study

Plastic Christianity Week 5

Baptism Sunday

Main Theme

This week we're stepping away from the sermon series for Baptism Sunday, but the theme still connects deeply to Plastic Christianity. Following Jesus was never meant to stay surface level or private. Jesus changes us, and baptism is one of the clearest pictures of that new life.

Opening Prayer

God, thank You for new life in Jesus. Help us follow You with honesty, surrender, and faith that is real. Amen.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- What's something in your life that changed the way you saw yourself or your future?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

1. Read Romans 6:3-8

Paul says baptism connects us to both the death and resurrection of Jesus. Going under the water points to the old life being buried. Coming out of the water points to a new life beginning. Paul is helping believers understand that following Jesus changes the direction of your life. The old patterns, identity, and way of living no longer define you.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think Paul connects baptism to death and resurrection?
- What parts of the "old life" can still try to pull us backward?
- How does baptism publicly show what Jesus has done internally?
- Why is real change difficult sometimes, even after following Jesus?
- What is one area where you've seen Jesus changing you recently?

2. Read Acts 2:36-41

Peter preaches the gospel, and the crowd is deeply convicted. They ask what they should do next. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized. The people didn't just hear truth and move on. They responded. Their faith moved them toward action.

- What do you notice about the crowd's response?
- Why is repentance important in following Jesus?
- What role does baptism play in this moment?
- Why do you think people sometimes hesitate to take public steps of faith?
- What can happen when faith stays private or passive?
- What is one next step God may be asking you to take?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Paul says that anyone in Christ is a new creation. Jesus doesn't just clean up part of our lives. He gives us a new identity and a new future. This doesn't mean we instantly become perfect. It does mean we no longer belong to who we used to be.

- What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?
- What does it mean to be a "new creation"?
- Why do people struggle to leave old identities behind?
- How can shame keep people stuck in their past?
- What difference does it make knowing Jesus sees you as made new?
- What old label or identity do you need to stop carrying?

SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS

- Why do you think baptism is such a meaningful step for believers?
- How can someone look spiritually healthy on the outside while still resisting surrender?
- What's the difference between behavior change and heart change?
- Why do you think Jesus calls people to public faith instead of private belief only?
- What part of your life still needs to be fully surrendered to God?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What is one practical step you can take this week to live out your faith more openly and intentionally?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for making us new. Help us walk in that new life and follow You fully. Amen.