

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DEAD TO SIN ALIVE IN CHRIST

The same person who goes down into the water is not the same person who comes up. A study on baptism as burial and resurrection, and what it means to be truly free from sin's rule.

Romans 6:1-10 • Buried and Raised with Christ

DISCIPLESHIP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these to open up honest conversation in your group, one-on-one, or in your own journaling this week.

- 01** The pastor describes baptism as a burial and resurrection, saying "the same person that went down is not coming up" – in what practical ways should this transformation be visible in a believer's daily life?
- 02** Romans 6 teaches that those who have died to sin have been set free from its power – why do you think so many believers continue to struggle with sin even after making a public declaration of faith through baptism?
- 03**

temptations?

-
- 04** The pastor says "anything that's dead doesn't respond" and that believers sin because they "resurrect the dead" – what habits, relationships, or thought patterns in your life might be giving power back to something that should remain buried?
-
- 05** The pastor emphasizes that the decision to be baptized was not the result of human persuasion, saying "if I preached it into you, somebody else can preach it out of you" – what does it mean for your faith to be rooted in God's work rather than in another person's influence?
-
- 06** Colossians 2:11-12 describes baptism as a spiritual circumcision, a cutting away of the sinful nature – what does it look like in practice to allow God to perform that kind of deep, internal transformation rather than merely modifying outward behavior?
-

DISCIPLESHIP

SMALL GROUP GUIDE - DEVOTIONAL

Deeper reflection questions for small group or personal devotional time this week.

-
- 01** The pastor states that God's job, not the church's, is to convict believers of sin – how should this understanding shape the culture and tone of a local church community?
-
- 02** Ezekiel 36:27 promises that God's Spirit within a believer will lead them to follow His decrees – how does dependence on the Holy Spirit differ from relying on willpower or religious discipline to live a godly life?
-

03

- 04** The pastor describes believers as dwelling in Christ not only on earth but also in the heavenly places where Christ sits at the right hand of God – how should this understanding of your spiritual position change the way you face opposition, fear, or defeat in everyday life?

"Sin no longer has rule over us. We are dead to sin, but we are alive in Christ, and it has all been performed by God's mighty hand in our life."

— PASTOR

Leader's note: This topic can surface real shame around ongoing struggles with sin. The pastor's own emphasis here is worth carrying into your group: don't focus on pointing out one another's sin – trust that God will show each person where they are going astray, and let your group be a place of grace rather than correction.

OVERVIEW

DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

This sermon centers on the meaning and power of baptism as a public declaration of victory over sin. The pastor draws from Romans 6, Colossians 2, Ezekiel 36, and Philippians 1 to explain that believers are not merely forgiven of individual sins but have been freed from sin's power

entirely. Through identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, the believer walks in a genuinely new life sourced entirely by God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

WHAT TO HOLD ON TO

1 Baptism is a symbolic burial of the old self and a resurrection into new life in Christ. The same person who goes down does not come up.

2 Sin no longer has rule over the believer. The pastor defined sin as "the power that influences us to act ungodly," and that power has been put to death.

3 When believers continue to sin, it is because they resurrect what is already dead by giving it attention and enthroning it again.

4 God's primary concern is not individual sins but unbelief. Refusing to believe that Christ's finished work has dealt with sin is the real obstacle.

5 The new life is not self-generated. It was not preached into the believer, decided by the believer alone, or produced by the church. It was initiated and is sustained by God.

6 Philippians 1:6 assures us that God who began the good work will continue it until completion.

THIS WEEK

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

Starve What Is Dead

Identify one area where you have been giving attention to something that has already been defeated. This week, make a deliberate choice to stop feeding it attention and instead redirect that energy toward prayer, Scripture, or fellowship.

Speak Your Victory Out Loud

The pastor emphasized the importance of open declaration. Practice speaking your identity in Christ aloud, whether in prayer, in conversation with a trusted friend, or in a journal. Words shape belief.

Trace God's Hand in Your Story

The pastor noted that God may have reached you through a parent, a grandparent, a friend, or a coworker. Take time this week to write down or share with the group how God made Himself visible to you. Gratitude for that story strengthens faith.

Pray From Dependence, Not Duty

The pastor said he wants to pray in the strength of God, not his own strength. Before your personal prayer time this week, pause and ask God to pray through you rather than approaching prayer as something you perform on your own.

Anchor Yourself in Philippians 1:6

If you are in a season of doubt about your growth or your standing before God, write this verse out and place it somewhere visible. Return to it daily as a reminder that God does not abandon unfinished work.

CLOSING PRAYER FOCUS

Close your group time by praying together with these themes in mind.

• Gratitude for the finished work of Christ that dealt with sin once and for all

• Renewed belief in the power of the new life available through Christ

• Trust that God who began the work will complete it

• Boldness to walk in victory rather than returning to a defeated posture

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Learn more about baptism at TNGC, or join us Wednesdays at 7:30 PM for Bible Study.

[Learn About Baptism](#)

[Join Wednesday Bible Study](#)