

# NORTHEAST | BAPTISM STUDY

## THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

So you think you are ready to be baptized...That's awesome!! This is a big step in becoming a follower of Christ. This is the beginning of a journey. Before setting out, we want to make sure you fully understand what baptism is all about and what it means for you. Baptism isn't just something we do for fun, and it's not just about tradition.

**Baptism is our obedient response to sharing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.**

This study will help you discover what all that means! We're excited that you are taking this step, and look forward to walking with you as you move deeper in your relationship with him!

## THE HUMAN CONDITION // WITHOUT JESUS

Read the following passages that help us better understand the human condition:

**“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’ Romans 3.10, 23**

**“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.” Romans 5.6**

**“In those days you were living apart from Christ...You lived in this world without God and without hope.” Ephesians 2.12**

**“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 3.23**

So what challenges do we face? What is the result of these challenges?

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Throughout this study, you can read the Scripture references here on the pages. To go further however, we encourage you to find these places in the Bible itself. If you need a Bible, please let us know and we will provide you with one.

Our attempts to find peace with God often fall short. What types of things have you done or seen others do to try and make peace with God? In other words, what do we try to do to get on God's *good side* again?

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The Bible makes it clear, however, that there is nothing we can do to find peace with a perfect God. It is *impossible* to do it on our own!

## YOUR STORY

Before coming to your decision to follow Christ and be baptized, what was your relationship with God like?

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What was your life like before this decision? (What were the most important things to you...how did you treat people...what view did you have of yourself or your life?)

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What was your view of the future? (Where did you think your life was headed?)

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**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2.8-10**

## GOD'S GRACE

So if we are separated from God...what do we do?  
Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection presents us with the opportunity to find peace with God.

**“God our Savior wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. Jesus gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.” 1 Timothy 2.4, 6**

**“Jesus answered, ‘I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.’” John 14.6**

**“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2.4-5**

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3.16**

How do these verses make you feel about God? What should our response to God be based on his grace?

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## **OUR COMMITMENT: FAITH**

**“Trusting in Jesus [alone] to save you.”**

In your words, what does it mean to have faith?

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**“But God has shown us a different way to heaven-not by ‘being good enough’ and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way though not new, really, for the scriptures told about it long ago (OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY). Now God says he will accept and acquit us-declare us ‘not guilty’- if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like.” Romans 3.21, 22**

**“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11.16**

**...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2.17**

In response to the above reading, what does it mean to have faith? What do we need to do to truly experience God’s grace?

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# TIME FOR A CHANGE: REPENTANCE

**“Change your mind and go in Jesus’ direction.”**

Repentance is an inward change of mind, affections, convictions, and commitment. We literally change the direction we were headed and start heading a new direction. When accompanied by faith in Jesus, repentance results in a public turning towards God and a life of service to him. Read what happened in the lives of those who heard about the opportunity of God’s grace:

**“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this, God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2.36**

**The Jews knew what this meant. Jesus was there messiah! The people were deeply moved by Peter’s message. The text says, “they were cut to the heart.” They responded to Peter and the other disciples by saying: “Brothers, what shall we do?” Acts 2.37**

**They wanted to know how to respond to this conviction. Peter replied by saying: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven and received the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2.38**

**“ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Acts 3.19**

What do you think true repentance will require you to change in your life? What makes repentance difficult? How has it been difficult for you?

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\*Our private commitment includes faith and repentance — like we just talked about. The next step is to take this decision public! This includes confession and baptism.

## CONFESSION: TELL YOUR STORY

**“If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10.9-10**

### SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY:

Explain the things that happened in your life that helped you realize your need for God. How did you hear about Jesus?

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What helped you understand your need for Jesus? (describe your feelings and thoughts...Both positive and negative.)

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What did you do or say to take the first step in following Christ? (Where were you/what happened?)

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What does it mean for you to confess “Jesus is Lord”?

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What could being baptized communicate to your family and friends?

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## BAPTISM: WHEN YOU JOIN GOD'S FAMILY

At NorthEast Christian Church, we believe baptism and following Christ go together. There are several reasons followers of Christ get baptized.

- ✓ Jesus was baptized (Mark 1.9)
- ✓ Jesus tells us to baptize and teach new disciples (Matthew 28.19-20)
- ✓ New Christ followers always followed through with their commitment by being baptized. (Acts 18:8)

Beyond these reasons, baptism also teaches and reminds us of our connection to Christ. Read these Scriptures below:

**“Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15.3-4**

**“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2.12**

What connection do you see between Christ’s actions and your baptism?

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## MY NEW LIFE

There is symbolism found in baptism... However a real transformation also starts to take place in us. Through the power of God in the Holy Spirit, we begin a new life in Christ. Read the following verses:

**“when someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5.17**

**“By baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6.4**

What change takes place in someone following Christ?

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What do you think it means to share in Jesus’s death so that we may have new life?

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What changes have you seen start to take place in your new life as a Christ follower? (Did you start new good habits or stop bad habits? New friends, etc.)

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Are there changes that you know you need to make and you need help with? Who will you ask to help you in these things? What questions do you still have about following Jesus?

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## BEING BAPTIZED

At NorthEast, we baptize by immersion (meaning “under the water”). There are several reasons we baptize this way. Here are some of them:

- ✓ How was Jesus baptized? “As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3.16
- ✓ The word baptize means to dip into water. The original Greek word Jesus used when talking about baptism was “baptizo”, which means to immerse or dip under water.”
- ✓ Baptism by immersion (fully under the water) symbolizes a burial-as we go under the water- and a resurrection-as we come back up out of the water.

\*Does everyone get baptized? Should we just go around dunking people and “helping” them be obedient to Jesus? Read the verses to help you understand who should be baptized:

**“Those who believed and accepted his message were baptized...” Acts 2.41**

**“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and in the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8.12-13**

## WHO CAN BAPTIZE YOU?

Any baptized believer may baptize you! Often, someone who is close to you and played a role in teaching you about Jesus will baptize you. (Ex: Parents, Grandparents, Youth Coach, or Church staff person)

## YOUR STORY

Who are the people you look up to the most spiritually?

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Have you spoken with them about baptism? Yes // No

How will life be different now that you have committed to following Christ?  
What hope do you now have in this new life with Christ?

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

This is the most important decision you could ever make! It's the beginning of a new journey, and like any other journey, there will be ups, downs, and unexpected turns in the road. But a journey with Jesus is the best one you could ever take!

He is with you every step of the way!

And we at NorthEast will also be with you every step of the way as we continue together to

**LOVE GOD,  
CONNECT PEOPLE,  
AND MAKE DISCIPLES!**