

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Let's Talk: Baptism and Communion

6.1.25



About This Week's Message:

This week, we hit pause on the parables and dove into two powerful practices Jesus gave His Church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These aren't just religious rituals. They are bold, beautiful declarations of our identity in Christ. Baptism marks our death to sin and resurrection into new life. Communion grounds us in grace and reminds us of the sacrifice that secures our future. Both point us back to Jesus—and forward to the life He offers.

Goals of This Week's Discussion:

- Understand the biblical foundation and design pattern of baptism and communion.
- Reflect on how these ordinances shape our identity and community.
- Respond in faith and obedience to Jesus' invitation through baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower:

- **Stand in Awe** – The cross is our continual reminder to worship.
- **Live Free** – You've been raised to walk in newness of life.

Starter Questions:

- What was your first experience with baptism or communion? How did it shape your faith?
 - How have you understood the purpose of these ordinances in the past?
 - Do either of these stir any questions or hesitations for you today?
-

Read Romans 6:3-4 & Colossians 2:12

Romans 6:3-4

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12

¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Discussion:

- How does baptism symbolize our death and resurrection with Christ?
- Why is immersion a fitting picture of that transformation?
- What stood out from the biblical "salvation-through-the-waters" pattern (Noah, Moses, Joshua, etc.)?
- How does baptism act as a spiritual milestone and public declaration of our faith?

Key Insight:

Baptism doesn't save you. Jesus does. But baptism is a loud, clear way of saying: I belong to Him now. My old self is buried, and I've been raised to walk a new life.

Read Matthew 26:26-29 & 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Matthew 26:26-29 – Institution of the Lord's Supper

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and

said, “This is my body, which is for^[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me.”^[b] ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Discussion:

- Why do you think Jesus chose a meal to symbolize the new covenant?
- How does the Lord's Supper help us remember, proclaim, and look forward?
- What does it mean to examine yourself before taking communion?
- How should we approach the Table when our hearts aren't in the right place?

Key Insight:

Communion is a sacred reminder of what Jesus accomplished and a preview of the feast to come. It grounds us in grace and gathers us as family.

Applying the Text:

- Have you been baptized by immersion since placing your faith in Jesus? If not, what's holding you back?
 - How can you approach communion differently next time—with more gratitude, reflection, or reverence?
 - What would it look like to use these ordinances as opportunities to testify to your faith?
-

Practical Challenge:

- If you've not been baptized, pray and ask God if now is the time to take that step.
- Consider signing up for the Baptism Class on June 8.
- Before your next communion, take time to prepare your heart. Confess. Reflect. Look up.

- Use these moments to reset your focus on Jesus and your commitment to follow Him.

Pray:

- Thank God for saving you and inviting you into His family.
- Confess any areas where you've neglected or misunderstood the meaning of baptism or communion.
- Ask the Spirit to deepen your appreciation for these gifts and to strengthen your faith as you walk with Jesus.