

Baptism Special

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Acts 2.37-41

³⁸ Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'

- **My Story.** What's been your experience of coming to faith and what's it been most like – lighting bolt or slow burn?
- Why is baptism such a good and universal way for believers to tell their story of coming to faith? And if a baptism service is like a wedding service, what parallels can you find between the two?
- **Our Story.** Read Matthew 28.16-20. Why do you think Jesus commanded his followers to baptise new disciples? Why is a public symbol important?
- Think about the Metro vision – Find, Follow, Love, Serve. Which of those four comes most easily to you? Which of them gives you the biggest challenge? And why is that?
- **God's Story.** Read Romans 6.1-14. Are we buried with Christ at the point of baptism, or is baptism acting out what has already happened through faith?
- Do you see yourself as buried with Christ to your old life – sins, addictions, controlling behaviours, fears, hurts etc. ? What difference should that make?
- The symbol of baptism reveals we've been raised to new life with Christ. How should this change how we live? Are you experiencing the full reality of this?

Break down into smaller groups and pray for each other. Pray for a renewed experience of our old lives, issues, failures, addictions and sins being buried with Jesus. Pray for a release of the resurrection life of Jesus into our lives.

Pray for the continued story we share of disciples following Jesus' command to find, follow, love and serve. Pray for the church to get more and more productive in the work and mission we've been given. Pray for those that we know and love, that they would find Jesus and learn to follow him too.

Finally, pray for anyone in the group who has not yet come to the point of being baptised. Pray that Jesus would give them clarity and confidence to move forward.