

LOSE YOURSELF

Discussion Notes

Philip explained that baptism is a little like a wedding; it's a public commitment of love. If you're a guest at a wedding you may have one of three reactions: either 1) you're married and you're reminded of your wedding and feel an urge to recommit the vows you made previously, 2) you're in a relationship but not yet married and you are wondering if you should take that next step, or 3) you're looking on and not feeling sure about the whole ceremony and idea of marriage.

The same is true of baptism. Do you identify with any of these three reactions to baptism?

- 1) I have been baptised and I'm reminded of those vows I made
- 2) I'm not yet baptised but its got me thinking about whether I should take the next step
- 3) I'm not sure what this is all about!

Read through Luke 9:18-26 together. Is there anything in this passage you haven't noticed before? What stands out to you?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

In the passage in Luke, Jesus asked his disciples two questions that we ask when we baptise people. The first question is basically "what do you believe in?" Philip suggested that spirituality is everywhere today and everyone believes in something.

- Do you agree that everyone believes in something?
- If so, what beliefs do we as a society hold? (i.e. consumerism, atheism, humanism)
- If it is true that our friends believe in something, how can we help them direct this searching towards Jesus?

WHAT ARE YOU COMMITTED TO?

Then Philip asked, 'what are you committed to? If we believe in something, we will normally follow this with being committed to it.

- How do we work out what we are committed to? What are the signs (where we spend our money, invest our time, what we think about etc.)?
- Philip suggested that for many of us our main commitment is to ourselves. Do you agree?

Jesus tells us that "whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."

- What does it mean to lose your life? What does that actually look like in day-to-day life?
- What are the challenges and things that prevent us from doing this?

Philip suggested that many Christians will "find Jesus" and "love one another" but not move beyond that to "follow Jesus" and "serve our city",

- Do you agree?
- How can we move to "follow Jesus" in more of our life?
- What can we do as a Hub to support each other in this? How can we challenge each other?

You might want to take some time to encourage anyone that hasn't been baptised to think about taking that next step. The next baptism slot is Easter Sunday.