



BAPTIZED

DEAD

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## INTRODUCTION

This week, Pastor Chip begins a three-week sermon series entitled *Baptized*. For many, the subject of baptism can be confusing because, throughout church history, the subject and tradition have been handled in many different ways. Pastor Chip presents where and why the practice began and explains the first of three elements – death to sin – baptism symbolizes.

## DISCUSSION

1. Pastor Chip stated baptism can't save anyone from their sins, so why did the early church continue to practice it? What is the purpose of baptism?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** What are the three elements Pastor Chip states the act of baptism by immersion symbolizes? How do they parallel one's crossing the Faith Line and accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior?
3. **Read Romans 1:18-32 and Romans 3:9-20.** What are these passages saying? Can you recall a time in your life when you realized you were rebelling against God and dead in your trespasses and sins? Share this experience with your group, and discuss the effects of this realization.
4. **Read Romans 7:14-20.** After crossing the Faith Line, have you ever felt like Paul? Share a time with your group when you wrestled with a problem. How does the symbolism in baptism relate to these times in your life?

## THINK ABOUT IT

An older man often recalls his spiritual journey and experiences with baptism. As an infant, his parents had him sprinkled because it was the tradition of their church. Later, his family changed churches, and in middle school, he was baptized by immersion after being encouraged to do so by his youth group leaders. In his mid-twenties, after falling away from all religious activity, he joined a Bible Study and discovered he needed more than just church attendance; he needed a relationship with Jesus Christ. After fully understanding how spiritually dead he had been and Jesus had saved him from his own self and sin, he wanted to be re-baptized to signify his new birth in Jesus Christ because he knew the sprinkling was his parent's choice, and in middle school he was merely following church tradition. Today at others' baptisms, he is reminded of how hopeless he would be without the resurrected life of Christ in him.

## DO SOMETHING

1. Take some personal quiet time and reflect on the message that Pastor Chip gave. Ask yourself, "What does baptism mean to me personally?"
2. If you have been baptized, recall what that signifies and how it relates to your daily life. If you have crossed the Faith line but haven't been baptized, spend time with God and discuss the matter with Him.