



## SHARING LIFE

- How have you experienced God this week?
- Do you need any help from God in your life?
- ▶ Pray together: Thank God for experiences, ask for God's help.



## REVIEW

- What did we discuss last time?
- Were you able to complete the process of forgiveness?
- How are the people that you are caring for doing? What would help them most?
- Did you get a chance to share a God experience with someone? Did you pray for someone?
- ▶ Pray together, that you may get to know new aspects of God and that your friendship with God would be strengthened and become deeper.

## EXPLANATION

The following Bible study is about baptism. Because the term “baptism” has many different uses nowadays, it’s important that we explain what is meant by the word “baptism”. Different people will mean different things when they use the word “baptism”. Here are some examples:

- Asking God’s blessing for a child
- Washing off original sin
- Defining your religious affiliation
- Naming a child
- Ceremony for installing godfather / godmother



**Sharing personal issues should not take up more than 1/3 of the evening.**

**Split groups of more than seven.**

All of these baptism “types” have a place in their own right, but that is not what is meant here by baptism. In our Bible passage for today, baptism means:

- A decision that an adult makes for themselves
- The complete submergence of a person (pictures)
- A symbolic action with two elements which the following Bible passage will explain.



## **BIBLE STUDY - ROMANS 6:3-14**

- Read the text quietly
- Read the text out loud
- Retell the text (from memory – closed Bibles)
- Contributions from the group to complement

### **General questions:**

- Is there anything that struck you in this text?
- What do you like about it?
- Is there anything in it that bothers you?
  - » What does it say about God?
  - » What does it say about humans?

### **Specific questions**

- What are the two elements that are symbolically represented by baptism?
- The choice of words is pretty extreme. Dying is something that cannot be undone. Why is such extreme language being used here?
- Can you imagine taking such a radical decision and getting baptized?



## CHALLENGES

- Think about whether you are ready to get baptized or not. Keep in mind that the process of forgiveness from the Bible study Basics 9 should be completed before baptism.
- Plan a party in order to celebrate the decision!
- IMPORTANT: Anything said during such processes of forgiveness is highly confidential and may not be passed on under any circumstances!!!
- With this lesson we have reached the end of the Basics. We recommend that you now continue with some fundamental topics such as: „How can we have confidence in our relationship with God?“, „What happens if we sin again?“, „How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?“ and so on.
- In addition to this, meet together to explore the books of the Bible. In the next chapter „Live Community“, you’ll find suggestions for Bible studies and for the format of these meetings. In case you haven’t yet made a decision to follow Jesus, continue with the Life Principles.
- With this lesson...” Abschnitt ersetzen mit “With this lesson we have reached the end of the basics. Now it is up to you to decide whether you want to continue with life principles or if you want to discover books of the Bible with the community.”



## COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT

Romans 6:3-14

In the New Testament, when someone decided to follow Jesus, he or she was baptized as soon as possible. Two examples are described in Acts 2,38-41 and 8,35-38. Paul reminds the Christians of Rome of their conversion to Christ by alluding to their baptism (Romans 6,3-4) as well. Baptism as described in the New Testament is always related to personal faith. It is about putting a definite end to your life without God and entrusting yourself to God

completely. Going under water symbolizes dying and being buried; coming up again symbolizes the resurrection to a new life with God.

The decision to be baptized is one of the most important and far-reaching decisions you can make. But if you have come to know Jesus personally and decided to live with Jesus, then baptism is the next logical step. If you have received forgiveness yourself and forgiven others, if you have aligned your life with God and want to live with Jesus as friend, example and authority, then it is time to end your old life without God in a solemn and festive ceremony, and from then on to live with Jesus as a new born person.

Celebrate the decision:

Important decisions in our lives are celebrated appropriately. That is why we have birthdays, weddings and many other celebrations. Baptism should also be celebrated appropriately. Why not organize a real baptism party where you can invite your family, friends and community? That will give your baptism the significance it deserves and is also a good opportunity for friends who don't believe in Jesus yet to meet him.



## YOUR NOTES

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