

4. Read Matthew 28:18-20 (below). What are Jesus' mandates for discipleship? In other words, what do disciples do according to this passage?

Matthew 28: ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

5. Re-read Matthew 28:18-20 (above). What are some of the similarities and connections between Jesus' Great Commission and the story of Jesus's baptism (Matthew 3:11-17)?

6. How do the foreshadowings, design patterns, or hyperlinks/echoes discussed in the sermon help you better understand the importance and meaning of our baptism?

The Story of Baptism

"4 Reasons Baptism is So Important" (Part 1)
Matthew 3:11-17

John the Submerger

John's baptism as a sign of repentance was an _____, but baptism itself wasn't new. Baptism was widely used as a cleansing ritual.

The English word "to baptize" is a transliteration of the Greek word baptizo which means "to plunge," "to dip," or "to _____."

4 Reasons Baptism is So Important

1. We are disciples of Jesus, and Jesus _____ baptism for his disciples. Baptism is a matter of obedience to that mandate.

Matthew 28: ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Since Jesus mandates that all disciples be baptized, it's _____ for discipleship. It's not required for salvation, but it's mandatory for discipleship.

John is not the kind of person that demands to _____ an order before carrying it out. So when Jesus says do it, he does it.

2. We live _____ lives, and baptism tells and even re-enacts God's redemption story. It's an important aspect of spiritual formation.

We understand ourselves through _____.

We also live story-_____ lives.

Baptism tells a story that is part of a much _____ story.

- F_____ - When Jesus is baptized as a sign of repentance, he is identifying with us and our sin just as he will identify with us and our sin on the cross. His baptism foreshadows his atoning sacrifice as our representative on the cross.

Jesus dies as a criminal even though he never committed a crime. He's baptized as a sign of _____ even though he has nothing from which to repent.

- Design _____

One design pattern in the Bible story is the pattern of going through _____ to enter new life (see Romans 6:1-5; 1 Peter 3:19-22)

There is also a pattern of divine love within God _____ in the Bible.

(For more on this design pattern see <https://bibleproject.com/blog/baptism-in-the-bible/>)

- E_____/Hyperlinks/"Easter Eggs"

The studied reader knows about the connection between the Servant of Isaiah 42 (alluded to his God's words to Jesus) and the _____ Servant of Isaiah 53.

When you were baptized, you were _____ parts of God's story, entering that story, being formed by that story. But you weren't doing it for yourself alone. You were doing it for everyone who was there that day. Everyone was entering the story and being formed by the story.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What's a "story" you like to tell that introduces people to who you are?
3. Read Matthew 3:11-17. What might be going through John's mind when Jesus comes and asks to be baptized by John?