



**Educate  
+ Engage**



THE  
NEW BIRTH



A Burial  
Called Baptism

### OVERVIEW

Baptism isn't just a symbol—it's the moment we are spiritually buried with Jesus and raised into new life. It's part of how we respond to the gospel, following Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. In this lesson, we will explore the biblical significance of baptism, how it's been foreshadowed throughout Scripture, and why it still matters today.

#### Scripture Passage

Romans 6:3–4 (ESV)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

### EDUCATE

Last week we talked about the incredible new-birth experience freely gifted to us because of Jesus' love and sacrifice. After we repent and turn from our sins, baptism is an important part of our response to the gospel.

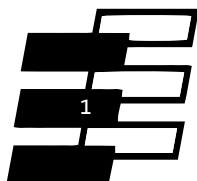
#### Point 1: Baptism is the burial that follows spiritual death.

In the gospel pattern, repentance is like death to our old life, and baptism is the burial of that old self. Just like in a funeral, something is being laid to rest. In baptism, we lay down our past—our sins, our shame, our old identity—and it's buried with Christ. The story of salvation doesn't stop at the cross; it continues through the tomb.

Scripture parallels:

- Red Sea (I Corinthians 10:1–2): The Israelites left slavery and their enemies were buried in water.
- Noah's Ark (I Peter 3:20–21): The old world was washed away; a new one began.
- Tabernacle Laver (Exodus 30:17–21): Priests washed before entering God's presence.
- Jonah in the Fish (Matthew 12:40): Jonah was "buried" for three days and then "brought up."

These moments were not just historical—they were prophetic. God has been using water as a symbol of cleansing, death, and new life from the beginning.



### **Point 2: Your “why” determines your “how.”**

If we see baptism as merely a tradition or symbolic gesture, then how and when it happens may feel flexible or casual. But if we understand baptism as a vital part of God’s salvation plan, then how we are baptized and why we are baptized becomes deeply important. It’s no longer something optional or ritualistic; it becomes something urgent, intentional, and rooted in reverence and obedience to God’s Word.

Acts 2:38 shows us that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins and leads to receiving the Spirit.

Mark 16:16 ties belief and baptism together as part of salvation.

1 Peter 3:21 declares baptism now saves us, not because of physical washing, but as a response of faith to God.

So baptism is more than a public ceremony—it’s a sacred burial and part of our spiritual rebirth.

### **Point 3: When you understand the gospel, you respond immediately.**

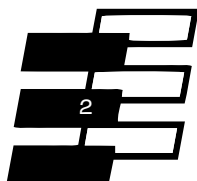
The New Testament is full of people who responded to the message of Jesus with immediate obedience in baptism:

- The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:35–38): After hearing the gospel, he asked, “What prevents me from being baptized?” and was baptized on the spot.
- The Disciples of John (Acts 19:1–5): When they understood the full message, they were re-baptized in the name of Jesus.
- The Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:30–33): He and his household were baptized the same night without delay.

When we understand what baptism truly is—a spiritual burial, a supernatural encounter, and a step of obedience—we won’t want to wait. The question becomes not if but when.

### **Closing**

The gospel isn’t just about believing—it’s about becoming. Repentance is how we die to our old life, and baptism is how that old life is buried. It’s not just a ritual or symbol—it’s a response to the call of Jesus. When we go down in the water, we are buried with Christ, and when we rise, we step into a new creation. This isn’t optional for believers—it’s essential. It’s not something we delay—it’s something we do in faith.



### ENGAGE

Reflect on the following questions:

1. Have I truly buried my old life in Christ?
2. Have I responded to the gospel with baptism, or have I delayed out of fear, confusion, or misunderstanding?

Lead students in a prayer of surrender and openness to take the next step.

If you haven't been baptized in the name of Jesus, don't wait. Talk to your leader or pastor. If you have been baptized, live like someone who has left the old life behind. Walk in "newness of life" every day—because the Gospel didn't just change your Sunday; it changed your identity.

