

# "Baptism: Joined to Jesus" | Matthew 3:1-17

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## OVERVIEW

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Baptism is an outward declaration of an inward transformation and a beautiful expression of the gospel and our union with Christ (death to sin, new life in Christ).

## OHANA TIME!

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**Icebreaker:** What was the longest period of time you spent in the wilderness or away from civilization? **Or** What is your favorite beach?

**Activity:** Go for a swim!

## PRAYER

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**Pray in groups of 2-3:** Pray for salvation! Pray for those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**Pray in a large group:** Pray for the new people and their families that were recently baptized. Pray for God's spiritual protection and strength as they begin a new journey of faith!

## BIBLE: READ MATTHEW 3:1-17

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1. What was John the Baptist like? Why do you think people went out of their way to hear him preach?
2. What was John the Baptist's role in relation to Jesus? (See verses 1-3)
3. How would you paraphrase John's message (verse 2) for people today?
4. John the Baptist baptized people with water for repentance, while the baptism Jesus brings is that of the Holy Spirit and fire (verse 11). What does the "water," "Holy Spirit," and "fire" symbolize?
5. Jesus' baptism becomes the occasion for God himself to testify to Jesus. What does the baptism of Jesus reveal regarding who Jesus is?
6. How does Jesus' baptism set the stage for his ministry to begin?
7. What example does Jesus set for us in his baptism?
8. How does baptism display the gospel? (See Romans 6:3-7).
9. Though baptism does not confer salvation, why is baptism an essential part of a believer's life?

## APPLICATION

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1. Baptism is the outward act that symbolizes the inward phenomenon of coming to and accepting Jesus Christ as real, as God incarnate, as the sacrificial means by which those who believe in him can be forever reconciled to God. The purpose of baptism is to give visual testimony of our commitment to Christ. It is the first step of discipleship (Acts 8:26-39).  
  
Have you been baptized? When? What is your baptism story? If you were baptized, what was the effect of baptism on your Christian life?
2. Who is one person you can share your story of faith and baptism with this week?

