



Baptism is our wedding ceremony, the time and place where we pledge our love to Christ and He names us as His own. The Apostle Paul provides a deeper and richer description of baptism, listing more blessings than we ever dared dream.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

Looking back, what are some things you wish you knew about (your) marriage when you said "I Do" that you didn't know at the time?

What percent of what your marriage was going to entail did you fully realize at the moment of your wedding?

BAPTISM IS OUR SPIRITUAL WEDDING.

Read Romans 6:3-5 in the New Century Version (NCV), and Ephesians 5:26-31. In what ways can baptism be thought of as our wedding ceremony? What biblical language makes that suggestion?

IN BAPTISM WE EXPERIENCE ENTRANCE INTO CHRIST.

Read Romans 6:3. Paul says all spiritual blessings are "in" Christ (Eph 1:3). Paul says Christians are "in" Christ (Rom 15:16). In that light, is it significant that Paul says we are baptized "into" Christ?

IN BAPTISM, WE PARTICIPATE IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

Read Romans 6:3-4. Jesus shed his blood in his death, and conquered the power of sin in his resurrection. Why is it significant that we participate in His death and resurrection?

BAPTISM IS OUR EXODUS MOMENT.

Read Romans 6:4 Notice how Romans 4-8 retells the story of the Exodus (Abraham is promised the world; his family is enslaved; they come through the water; they are given God's covenant, and they journey onto their inheritance.) What role does baptism play?

IN BAPTISM, WE ARE MADE RIGHT

(JUSTIFIED) & HOLY (SANCTIFIED). Read 1 Cor 6:11. Only the blood of Christ can make us right. Only the Spirit can make us holy. But Paul connects what can only be done by God with our having been washed clean. What does this say about the time and place of baptism?

IN BAPTISM, WE ARE JOINED TO THE SPIRIT.

Read 1 Cor 12:13. Baptism is done by the Spirit, and it is when we received God's Spirit. How does this make baptism a spiritual event?

IN BAPTISM, WE ARE CLOTHED WITH CHRIST & BELONG TO CHRIST.

Read Gal 3:26-29. What does it mean to be clothed with Christ? If we put him on, what is it that we have taken off? Notice in verse 29 that we are "Christ's." What does it mean to belong to Christ?

BAPTISM IS OUR EXPRESSION OF FAITH.

Read Col 2:12. Notice the passive language (something done TO you), and the focus on faith. Compare Hebrews 11. How is Baptism an act of faith?

IN BAPTISM, WE EXPERIENCE REBIRTH & RENEWAL.

Read Titus 3:5 & John 3:5.