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STUDY GUIDE FOURTEEN – FROM SERMON ON MAY 10/26

Baptism is one of the clearest and most joyful expressions of following Jesus. It doesn't save us, but it publicly declares that we belong to Christ and identifies us with His death, burial, and resurrection. In this study, we'll reflect on what Scripture teaches about baptism, why Jesus calls His followers to it, and what it means for our lives today—whether we were baptized recently, many years ago, or are still considering taking that step.

OPENING QUESTIONS

When you think of baptism, what words or images immediately come to mind?

Have you ever witnessed a baptism that particularly impacted you? What stood out about it?

Why do you think public acts of commitment are meaningful in life and relationships?

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND NEW LIFE

The sermon described conversion as the beginning of a new life with Christ. How would you explain "new life" to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?

Read John 3:5-8. What does Jesus teach about spiritual rebirth and the work of the Spirit?

BAPTISM IN SCRIPTURE

Read Acts 8:26-39. What stands out to you about the Ethiopian official's response to the gospel?

In several examples throughout Acts, people believed in Jesus and were baptized soon afterward. Why do you think baptism was treated as such an immediate and important step?

Read Acts 16:29-34. What do you notice about the Philippian jailer's response after hearing the gospel?

The sermon emphasized "believer's baptism." Why do you think personal faith and personal decision matter in baptism?

Some passages mention entire households being baptized. What do these stories seem to suggest about faith, influence, and family?

WHAT BAPTISM MEANS

Read Romans 6:3-4. According to Paul, what does baptism symbolize?

How does baptism visually portray the gospel message of death and resurrection?

Read Matthew 3:13-17. What do you learn from Jesus choosing to be baptized?

Jesus did not need forgiveness for sin, yet He was baptized anyway. Why is that significant for us as His followers?

OBEDIENCE, IDENTITY AND THE CHURCH

Read Matthew 28:18-20. What connection does Jesus make between discipleship and baptism?

The sermon described baptism as "the starting line of obedience, not the finish line." What do you think that means practically?

Why might some Christians hesitate to be baptized? What encouragement would you offer to someone struggling to take that step?

Baptism publicly identifies us with both Jesus and His church. Why do you think following Jesus was never intended to be a purely private faith?

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

If you have been baptized, how does remembering your baptism encourage or challenge you today?

If you have not been baptized, what questions, fears, or obstacles still remain for you?

CLOSE YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER