

**Growth Group Discussion Questions
For Our Growth Groups
“Big Moments For Jesus Followers”- Part 3
“Getting Baptized-The Day You First Stand Up For Jesus”
Week of September 19, 2021**

Summary- *Big Moments For Jesus Followers* sets the tone for how we live and what we expect to do to build the Kingdom of God going forward.

Last week it was about the first time we led someone to faith in Jesus. **This week, it is about the first time you stood-up and identified yourself publically as a follower of Jesus... your Baptism!**

More than just a ceremony, Baptism teaches us that obedience to Jesus is the real “next step” for every Follower.

In fact, standing up for Jesus ensures that we don’t end up “closet Christians”! We have to fight being anonymous! We were saved to serve and represent Jesus to the world around us. Not the easiest thing to do but with the Holy Spirit’s help, it is the “next thing to do” for every Jesus follower!

ICE BREAKER & WELCOME BACK QUESTIONS

1. What is your typical reaction to an earthquake as its happening?
2. Tell us something about you that we don’t know.
3. Talk for a minute about your own baptism... when and where did it happen? What do you remember most from the experience?

GOING DEEPER

BAPTISM IS ALL ABOUT OBEDIENCE & FOLLOWING JESUS’ EXAMPLE

1. In Matthew 3:13-16, Jesus gets baptized by John the Baptist. Use this passage to answer the follow questions about Jesus’ baptism:
 - a. What happened at Jesus’ baptism experience? Comment on the location, setting, and what happened to Him, etc.
 - b. Jesus was the sinless Son of God. He didn’t need to begin His relationship with God, He already had one. So, discuss some reasons why you think Jesus submitted Himself to being baptized.

- c. Why is Baptism important for me and every Jesus Follower?

**GROWING IN OBEDIENCE IS KEY TO OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
& TO PLEASING THE LORD!**

1. What is obedience to Jesus? What does it look like for a Jesus Follower?
2. Speaking of obedience to Jesus, read the following verses and answer the questions that follow:

John 14:15 *If you love me, obey my commandments.*

John 14:21 *Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”*

- a. According to verse 21, how can you grow in obedience as a Christian?
 - b. What’s the connection between love and obedience?
 - c. What is the pay-off or blessing for obeying Jesus?
 - d. What does it mean that Jesus will “reveal” himself to those who obey Him?
 - e. Looking at Verse 21, how can you know that you are deeply loved by God?
 - f. So, according to Verse 21, how can you know if you have real faith in Jesus?
2. Read Romans 1:5 and answer the question that follows:

Romans 1:5 *Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.*

- a. What is it that Believers do that brings glory to God?

LET'S GET REAL PRACTICAL...

1. Below are some of the everyday/every week things we do that show our obedience and love for God. Discuss how you can grow in these areas.

- **Loving your neighbor**
- **Being honest**
- **Getting baptized**
- **Showing up for Jesus in our conversations, behaviors & relationships**
- **Showing mercy to hurting people**
- **Being generous**
- **Spending time with other believers**
- **Forgiving those who've hurt us**
- **Praying for friends and family**
- **Being humble with your family**
- **What else can we do?**