

Discovery Group - Gospel Foundations

(2) Repent

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Acts 2:22-24, 36-41

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 3:13-17

Ephesians 1:13-14

Romans 6:1-14

Colossians 2:9-15

Repent and Be Baptized

Not many days after Jesus had died, was raised again to life, and ascended to heaven, the apostles proclaimed the Good News - the Gospel - to others for the first time. The people who heard were deeply impacted, and asked what they must do in response to this amazing announcement. Peter answered, "*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Acts 2:38).

To repent means to turn around. It means to stop pursuing one way of life and go a completely different direction. To leave behind all sin and self-centered living and false religions and philosophies, and to turn instead towards Jesus and follow Him. It is a momentous decision, to say the least.

And then to be baptized. The act that officially welcomed these new believers into the faith was a simple ceremony of immersing them in water. Simple, but highly significant. Jesus Himself had modeled this, and just weeks earlier had sent His apostles out with the command for them to baptize people of all nations. There are layers of profound truth that can be explored regarding this spiritual act - this sacrament. For now, we'll look at a couple of basic realities. For more study, read the passages in the 'Abide' section on the other side.

(1) Baptism is a **welcome into the family of God**. It is like a wedding, or the adoption papers being signed. You are a child of God with a new identity. "*Be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ.*"

(2) Baptism represents **cleansing**. You are washed of all your sin. Every bit of guilt and shame and dirtiness is gone. You stand before a Holy God as if you'd never sinned. "*Be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins.*"

(3) Baptism **seals you** as belonging to God and proclaims that you are a new person. You are transformed. You are dead to sin but alive to God. You descend into the waters like Christ descended into the death of the tomb, and like Him you are raised to new life. You have the power to overcome sin. "*Be baptized... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"