

## “Baptism”

Series: *Non Series*

Baptism Weekend 2010

**Discussion Starter:** Share one significant “mile-marker” in your life (graduation, marriage, birth of child, etc.)?

**Explore:** Read Acts 8:26-40.

Philip was one of the early leaders in the church of Jerusalem. Once persecution broke out against the believers he left the city and began to preach in Samaria. Soon after, the Spirit called Philip on a special mission.

1. Who did Philip meet on the road to Gaza and what was his position (vs. 26-27)? Why did this man make a special trip to Jerusalem?
2. What was the man doing in his chariot when Philip arrived on the scene (vs. 28-31)? How was Philip able to help?
3. What passage from the Bible was the man reading (vs. 32-35)? In what way does Jesus fit the picture described in those few verses?
4. How did the man respond to the good news about Jesus (vs. 36-40)?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Jesus commissioned the church to go and “make disciples” of all nations. What role does baptism play in that process? How has baptism played a role in your faith journey?
2. Three views exist concerning the meaning of baptism. Which one has the most meaning or makes the most sense to you?
3. What is the connection between faith and baptism? Why is it important that as believers we publically declare our faith?
4. What are some reasons believers might delay being baptized? What would you say to them?
5. Before this lesson, what were your beliefs and feelings about baptism? How has this lesson changed those ideas?

**Live:**

As a group: Baptisms take place at New Hope year round. If anyone in your group is ready to take that “step” encourage them to call the church office and set a date on the calendar. Your group can attend together and celebrate!

On your own: If you have accepted Christ but have yet to follow His example in baptism – ask yourself the following questions: “What is the one thing holding me back?”, and “When will I make my faith public?”

## Listening Guide Notes

<sup>[19]</sup> “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>[20]</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” -**Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)**

<sup>[3]</sup> “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>[4]</sup> There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – <sup>[5]</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>[6]</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” -**Ephesians 4:3-6 (NIV)**

**What does baptism mean?**

1. Sacramental View – baptism is a means by which God conveys grace.
2. Covenantal View – baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant.
3. Symbolic View – baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.

**WHY be baptized?**

1. Because you want to follow Christ’s example.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” -**Mark 1:9 (NIV)**

2. Because obeying Christ’s command shows you know Him.

“Jesus said, ‘Go...make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...’” -**Matthew 28:19 (NIV)**

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.”

-**1 John 2:3 (NIV)**

3. Because it shows you are a believer.

“Many in Corinth also listened to Paul and believed and were baptized.”

-**Acts 18:8 (NCV)**

<sup>[32]</sup>"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. <sup>[33]</sup>But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven." **-Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT)**

"...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."  
**-Colossians 2:12 (NIV)**

<sup>[26]</sup>"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>[27]</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."  
**-Galatians 3:26-27 (NIV)**

- **Examples of Baptism from Acts:**  
Acts 2:22-41; Acts 8:5-17; Acts 8:26-39; Acts 22:3-16; Acts 10:33-48;  
Acts 16:13-15; Acts 16:25-34;  
Acts 18:8; Acts 19:1-20
- **Some References to Baptism in the New Testament Writings:**  
Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:1-5;  
1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:4-6;  
1 Corinthians 12:13

More info at [www.newhopechurch.tv/baptism.html](http://www.newhopechurch.tv/baptism.html).