



Sacraments

Communion and Water Baptism

BIG IDEA

In today's message, we discuss the two sacraments that we celebrate as a church - communion and water baptism. Sacraments are sacred moments, encounters with God.

Communion is an invitation from God to see Jesus dead, risen, and coming again. It is an invitation to receive Christ and proclaim Christ. It is an invitation to renew the vows we made to Christ by remembering our salvation.

Water baptism does not save you, only Jesus can do that. Water baptism is a sign of our cleansing. It is a symbol of dying to self and raising to a new life with Christ. It is a public declaration of our commitment to Christ. It is the beginning of a life of more with God.

TALK IT OVER

- Was there anything in particular from Sunday that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you, challenged you with, or called you to?

Salvation and Baptism — Read Romans 6:1-11 NIV

- Have you been immersed into a relationship with Jesus? Are you sure of your salvation? (Ask if anyone would like to share the moment this happened for them)
 - If anyone is unsure of their salvation, ask them if they believe Jesus died for their sins. Ask them if they believe that Jesus has risen from the dead. Ask them if they would like to pray right now to receive Jesus. If someone says yes they would like to do this, have the group lay hands on them.
 - The leader should lead the person(s) asking for salvation through praying something like this: "Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I cannot save myself from my sin. I know that you died and rose again so that I would not have to die for my sin. Will you forgive me of my sins? Will you come into my heart and life as my Savior and Lord? Will you fill me with your Holy Spirit to follow you in the days to come? Thank you Jesus for saving me and filling me!" **(CELEBRATE NEW LIFE WITH THEM)**

(If everyone is sure of their salvation)

- What has your life looked like since giving your life to Christ?
- Have you been water baptized? What did it mean to you then? What does it mean to you now?
 - Feel free to read Jesus' water baptism story if you'd like - Matthew 3:13-17

Read Ezekiel 47:3-5 and 9

- Where do you feel like you are at in your journey with Christ? Ankle deep? Knee deep? Waist deep? Swimming in the deep end where life and joy abounds?
 - What steps have you taken to get there?
 - What steps do you think are next to continue wading out into the deep where God has more in store for you?

Notice that that last several weeks of community group have been heavy on salvation and testimony. This is for two reasons:

- 1. We want to ensure that all hear the gospel message in our church and community.*
- 2. When we discuss our own salvation story together with believers, we are practicing sharing it with others.*

Who in your life needs to hear how the Gospel has changed your life?

Do not forget Fields of Faith next Wednesday (November 8th at 5:30pm on the Jones County football field.

PRAYER FOCUS

Spend time in prayer thanking God that we get to know Him personally because of Jesus. Thank God that we get to encounter Him through the sacraments. Ask God to continue moving in the hearts of those in GCC and Jones County. For more and more people to come to know Jesus. Ask God for boldness to intentionally make Him known each and every day.