




EXERCISE:

Read the four texts and answer the four related questions.

 *Luke 3:1-22*

 *Matt 3:13-17*

 *John 4:1,2*

 *Acts 2:37-42*

What physically happens to people who are baptised?

Read the four stories and write down about which people something is being told.

Tell something about the people. What do you know about their life?

What happens when they get baptised?

Is it important who is doing the baptising? If yes, why, if no, why not?

Write down who does the baptising in the stories.

Is it about them or the person being baptised?

Are there conditions to being baptised?

Which decisions do people make before being baptised?

Why do you think they make these decisions?

What is the response of people to John's, Jesus' and Peter's preaching?

Do Jesus, Peter and John make decisions for the people or do they choose themselves?

What is the result of the decision to be baptised, firstly for the person themselves, but also for their family, friends, neighbours and clients?

What do you think baptism is about upon reading these stories?



Read the story from Col 2:11–15 and now apply it to your own life.

Pose to yourself four questions:

1. Is there a word from God for me personally in this text?
2. Is there a promise from the Father for my life?
3. Does Jesus ask me to do anything?
4. Decide to act upon this and ask Jesus to help you with this.

Going deeper

What does baptism mean?



Matt 28:18,19

Jesus says first: “All authority on heaven and earth is given to me.” He is talking here about His kingship. When Jesus teaches the disciples that people can enter his kingdom, He teaches them that people can be baptised and that they must keep to everything which He has taught them. They clearly choose against the realm of Satan and want to live in Jesus’ kingdom.

It is a question of trusting in Jesus’ words and obediently entering the way He is showing. Baptism brings people into the Kingdom of God where Jesus is King and where His principles are followed.

Jesus himself gives the greatest example in being baptised. He was not baptised because of His sin but simply did what the Father asked of Him.



Matt 3:13-15

What happens in the water?



Col 2:11-15

Baptism is not only suggested here as a symbolic event but is a life-changing decision which confirms your choice to accept and follow Jesus. You are making a choice, just as the Israelites did in leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on their way to the promised land.

Jesus rose from the dead and lives eternally. This happens to us when we are born again and symbolically confirm this

by being baptised. We leave the old life behind us and start to live in the new kingdom in which we are dead to our former nature of sin.

What are we saying by being baptised?



Acts 2:38

Jesus becomes your Christ, that means anointed King and saviour. Jesus as King may now reign in my life. Through baptism you are saying: "I believe with all my heart that Jesus saves me from the power of satan and his realm."



Rom 10:10

Baptism is not merely a symbolic act. It is about acknowledging Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is about believing with your whole heart that Jesus died for you personally, as a sacrifice for your sin. And that you, through this act of obedience, also truly receive forgiveness. That is why baptism takes place in the church. It is namely a public declaration of faith that you wish to live in the kingdom of Jesus. It is a statement: "I am made righteous!" It is very powerful, also for yourself, to speak out this confession.

What is the result of baptism?



Gal 3:7-9,27-29



Acts 2:37-39

Baptism in water is followed by being filled with the Holy Spirit. We saw this in the text when Jesus was baptised. The Holy Spirit came on Him as He came out the water. Experience shows that baptism in the Holy Spirit can happen before being baptised in water!



Acts 10:44-47


Part 2 lesson 8 covered the Holy Spirit. If necessary, take another look at this lesson and open your heart up to receiving the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is for everyone who repents.




Eph 2 19-22

Through being born again we also become part of the family of God. God is our Father, other Christians become our brothers and sisters.

EXERCISE:

 Through this study you have chosen to become a disciple. That means very simply: looking at Jesus and doing what He did. This is an important step to take. Think about the cost and make your choice.

 Ask your mentor what has happened in their life regarding baptism. Talk together about the best way in which to inform your family and friends that you are going to take this step.

Lined writing area consisting of horizontal dotted lines for notes.