



These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 3:16

Baptism is a living picture of a person deciding to die to self and follow Jesus. But just as a wedding ceremony is not the marriage, baptism is not salvation. Baptism is symbolically following Jesus' example in a way that is not religious or words. It is action. So what makes baptism more than just "getting wet?" Baptism is just as much about the heart and attitude of the believer as it is about the outward symbol of descending into the waters. It is a public statement where a person is saying, "I believe I am loved, and I agree to be led by Jesus into nothing less than God's eternal purpose for me. In baptism we agree to live a bigger life in Jesus, regardless of the cost.

Pray

Father, I know I am well loved by you; I believe it. But there are times when I am not allowing you to lead me. I confess those times, and I repent from not being free of me. I no longer want to follow me, but instead I want to follow you in to the divine purpose you have planned for my life. Open my eyes to see the amazing, fulfilling purpose you have designed for me and empower me to live it.

Getting Started

- Children play a game called follow the leader...what was your favorite game to play as a youngster?
- Have you been baptized? Share your story.

Listening Deeply

1. Read Matthew 16:25. What does it look like to have the willingness to lose our lives to follow Jesus?
2. What makes baptism more than just "getting wet"?
3. One key to Jesus' life was that he knew who he was. Pastor Drew says, "Until our identity is settled in the face of Jesus, we live as exhausted posers." What does that mean?
4. When we are baptized, we are saying we agree to be led by Jesus. To do that, we must be free of ourselves, to stop saying, "I follow me," and instead say I agree to live within God's will and purpose for my life. In all practicality, how does a person stop following self?
5. You have a divine call on your life; a special purpose created for you by God. Do you know it? If yes, share. If you aren't sure, what are some ways a person could find God's will for their life?
6. In baptism, we agree to live a larger purpose; one that is bigger than ourselves. We are publicly not to settle for anything less than God's purpose for our lives. Where are you settling for less than God's purpose in your life?

Living Wide in Jesus

God has a special purpose for you. He specifically called you to follow him. When we refuse what God has for us, we live broken lives that are self-led to destruction. When we believe Jesus and allow him to lead, he takes hold of all of our life—the big and the small, the hard and the easy, the pain and the joy, and he uses it to fulfill his purpose, giving us peace and wholeness. Are you living your purpose? On the back of this page, write a prayer of commitment to follow Jesus into your divine purpose.