



Where Extraordinary Begins

Baptism Sunday

Week of October 14, 2018

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

Message Recap:

Read Joshua 1:9, Matthew 27:12-14, Mark 1:9-11

When we live a life of trying, we are destined to fail. All God's children are called to an extraordinary life. To do this we must start from the beginning - knowing our identity. No more "image management" and being concerned about how our faith looks to others. What matters is our actual faith. Period. Leave behind weakness and fear and choose strength and courage. Jesus lived his life from birth to burial knowing this who he is - the Son of God. With knowing and accepting our identity in Christ we too will live an extraordinary life. Jesus began his ministry with baptism - a statement to the world as to who he was and still is, the Son of God. As sons and daughters of God, baptism will demonstrate our identity and secure our identity as we declare our faith.

Pray

Dear Jesus, you lived an extraordinary life! Help us to leave behind fear and weakness as you fill us with your courage and strength. We ask you solidify our identity in you as we choose to follow you in all we do. Guide us to step out of our comfortable places and into your plan for our lives. Give us the desire to declare our faith whether through baptism, through the words we speak, or the actions we take. Amen
Digging Deeper

Getting Started

- Love the water or hate the water? Tell about an experience that explains how you feel about spending time in a river, lake, or ocean?
- When Jesus was baptized he "saw heaven being torn open." (Mark 1:10) Imagine what that would have looked like and share your thoughts.

Digging Deeper

1. Satan desires to humiliate us; tell about a time you experienced his humiliation in your life. How did you respond?
2. How does living out of fear and weakness prevent people from being extraordinary?
3. Why do you think it is easier to see a call from God in someone else's life than in your own? What can you do to change this?
4. Explain the difference: Living from courage versus trying to be courageous.
5. If *being* is accepting your identity in Christ, why does extraordinary living begin with "being" and not "doing"?
6. Knowing that Jesus was fully human and fully God, how difficult do you think it was for him to remain silent when facing his accusers? Explain your answer. (See Matthew 27:12-14, John 19:9)
7. Why was it important for John to baptize Jesus? How does God's response affect your view of baptism? (See Mark 1:9-11)

Living Jesus

The work of Jesus in you should change you in such a radical, extraordinary way that you can no longer accept staying the same. He can change all hopelessness into hope - if we let him. And once you really let him into your life, anything other than you being the "new you" and living for Jesus is you being the dead you. Let go of your dead, comfortable life and start being the radical who isn't afraid to love, or help, or point someone to Jesus. This is the bigger story that you were created to live. Be bold and courageous and speak the Truth that wakes people up to their need for God! Live this John the Baptist calling with surprising love and extraordinary courage!

What's Your Story?

Accepting our identity in Christ is not easy. Share how "image management" has shaped your life. How do you see yourself today?

>> Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.