

1. Faith is my response to what God has revealed.
2. Jesus asks the question, “Who do people say that I am” to help the disciples think about the bigger question of who is Jesus, really?
3. Despite Jesus’ miraculous powers, people revere Him less because He is not the conquering King they anticipated. This reminds us that what is seen on the surface is not always a reflection of what God is actually doing.
4. Peter knew that Jesus was not just a “historical figure,” but the Messiah, the promised Savior.
5. Peter’s answer is his response to the revelation God has given. It’s the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to understand Jesus as God.
6. Jesus instructs the church to teach the Word of God, make disciples, and baptize those disciples. These things are to be done everywhere until Jesus returns!
7. The very word “Christian” means “Christ follower” or “one who is of Christ.” Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ’s command to identify with Him. If we neglect baptism, then we are in disobedience.
8. The baptismal water (Mikveh) is referred to as the womb of the world, meaning that as the convert comes out, their status changes. They have been “born again” or made a “new creation.” However, water purification is only as good as the purification of the soul.
9. When we are baptized into Christ, we are symbolically dying with Him and rising to new life- therefore, born again!

QUOTES

"I know men, and Jesus was no mere man. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him. "

- Napoleon 1815

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus Paid It All
In Tenderness
Great I Am/O Praise the Name

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27–30), how does that question challenge us personally as we think about following Him publicly through baptism?

People in Jesus' day often misunderstood Him. In what ways do people misunderstand baptism today, and how does that impact whether or not Christians choose to be baptized?

Baptism represents dying with Christ and rising into new life. What does that kind of transformation look like in everyday life, not just on the day of the baptism?

Some believers delay baptism even though it's a clear instruction from Jesus. What emotions, barriers, or misconceptions might be behind that hesitation?

Baptism is a public declaration that we identify with Jesus. How does going public with our faith change the way we see ourselves and the way others see us?

Since faith is responding to what God has revealed, how can baptism become a defining moment where someone steps into a deeper trust in Jesus?

Baptism symbolizes being born again as part of God's family. What does it look like for a church to walk with someone after baptism so they don't feel like they're starting this new life alone?

Baptism is a personal decision, but it's also a community celebration. How can that tension between personal faith and public expression shape the way we view our role in the church?