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**Week 4**

**Baptism declares a different death and resurrection**

**INTRODUCTION**

Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples of all the earth and to baptize them. Why do you think he wanted people to be baptized?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read 1 Peter 3:18-21 and then reflect on these questions.

1. Verse 18 says Christ died for sins to bring us to God. Talk about this idea of Jesus paying the price for your sins. How does this impact you on a daily basis?
2. Verse 18 also talks about Jesus being made alive in the spirit. This same process happens to all who proclaim Jesus as Lord. If you have done that, how has your new life been different than your old life?
3. 2 Peter 3:9 says “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” Why do you think God is so patient with people? Why do you think people are so slow to respond to Him?
4. Baptism is an acted-out symbol of your faith in Jesus. Have you ever been baptized? Why did you choose to be?
5. Baptism is declaring and participating in Jesus’ death/resurrection – it’s showing everyone you are on Jesus’ team. Why is it important to let others know that you’re a Christian?

**STEPPING FORWARD**

If you have never had a moment in your life where you confessed your sins to Jesus, accepted him as Lord, and asked him to forgive you, consider taking that step this week. If you have never been baptized as a believer then what are you waiting for?

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18**