

TALK IT OVER

Sacraments BAPTISM

ICEBREAKER (Start talking)

When do you feel like the best version of yourself?

INTRODUCTION (Start thinking)

God has made you into something great! Baptism is a way to express that to the whole world.

READ (Start sharing)

- Baptism is the act of being submerged in water. But it's really more than that. It's an outward expression of the inner reality of your salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Why should we be baptized? First, we are following Jesus' example (Mark 1:9). But also, because He commanded us to be baptized and to baptize others (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Share how your life is different since becoming a believer.

READ (Start sharing)

- Baptism is about going public with your faith. It is an outward expression of your life-long commitment to Christ.
- As baptism is an outward expression of your commitment to Jesus, who have you shared your commitment to Christ with?

READ (Start sharing)

- Much like communion, baptism is a symbol of our new life in Christ.
- Read Romans 6:3-4.
- Baptism illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection. It also illustrates our new life as a Christian.
- Baptism doesn't save you and make you a believer, it tells the world that you are already a believer.
- What are or were some obstacles to baptism for you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO (Start doing)

If you are not yet baptized as an adult, will you commit to do so?

PRAYER (Start praying)

Dear Lord, thank You for saving us. As we follow Jesus' command to be baptized, help us to commit to follow Him as best as we can, all the days of our life. In Jesus' name.

READ GOD'S WORD DAILY using S.O.A.P.

Day 1:

And when you were baptized, it was the same as being buried with Christ. Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death.

Colossians 2:12 (CEV)

Day 2:

Baptism... now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:21 (CSB)

Day 3:

Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Romans 6:5-6 (NLT)

Day 4:

All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:27 (NIV)

Day 5:

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share

TIPS FOR ONLINE SMALL GROUP

- 1. HOSTING A SMALL GROUP MEETING ON ZOOM.** If you are interested in hosting a small group on zoom through New Hope Windward, let us know. Our small group team will help you get started. Zoom training is available.
- 2. EMAIL INVITE.** Ensure to send out a calendar invite with the meeting details and how to connect to the meeting platform on zoom.
- 3. REMINDER DURING THE WEEK.** Keep everyone in your group connected by sending a reminder during the week of your upcoming small group meeting.
- 4. START ON TIME & STICK TO YOUR TIME SCHEDULE.** For your scheduled meetings, it's recommended to get started within 5 minutes of your scheduled start time. Most small group meetings are held for about 60 minutes.
- 5. ZOOM'S BEST PRACTICE.** Familiarize yourself with the Zoom features on your electronic device. It is helpful for everyone to know where the mute button is located. Ask the attendees to self-mute to avoid environmental noise when someone else is talking & sharing. Doing this will help with the flow of your SG discussion time.
- 6. DOWNLOAD ZOOM APP.** In order to participate in the Online Small Group, download the Zoom App from your iPhone or Android. You may also download the Zoom App from your laptop PC or iPad device.

TIPS TO IN-PERSON GROUP

- 1. START & FINISH ON TIME.** Doing this will show your small group you value their time.
- 2. BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE.** Uncomfortable silences are bound to happen. It's okay! A long pause during a group discussion can be powerful. A *pause* gives space for quieter people to break into the conversation; silence allows people to figure out exactly what they would like to say.
- 3. CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT.** Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: "What is said in small group, stays in small group." **Nothing, nobody, never...** *"Share nothing, to nobody, never"* outside of the group.
- 4. MAKE GROUP A PRIORITY.** Communicate in advance when you will be unable to attend by either calling and/or texting your host or responding to the zoom email invitation by accepting or declining. This will help your host to plan accordingly especially if it is an in person small group gathering.