

BAPTISM

Baptism Weekend | 02.05-06.2022

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: Personal faith will bring us to Heaven but public faith brings Heaven here. The story we read in the Scriptures shows us how integrated people were with one another in community, there were no spiritual free agents. When we look at the way that unity binds us together in community then baptism can become an invitation to others to join our story of faith as we join the bigger story of God's together.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: Describe what makes a good community experience.
- Digging Deeper: What is the difference between good and bad community?

» Observation | Read Ephesians 4:1-6

(15 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | We find unity in community.

(15 minutes)

- Community towards the call Paul talked about is essential to our journey with Jesus. What does community look like in your life?
- Think about a time when genuine community was missing. How did you reconnect with community in a way that was meaningful to you?

» Community Calling | Reread Ephesians 4:1-2

(15 minutes)

- Paul has been arrested, beaten, and worse as a follower of Jesus but he kept pursuing God with what he did and how he cared for others, how does this make you think of your own life?

» Community Unity | Reread Ephesians 4:3-6

(15 minutes)

- Unity feels pretty rare in our day, how do you define it and what steps can you take towards God-centered unity in your life?
- If biblical unity does not mean uniformity, how would you define unity? How can this understanding of unity help you pursue unity in your relationships with others who think, believe, or live differently than you?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- Who have you created distance with over the past few years that you sense God might be asking you to reach out and reconnect with?
- What barriers might come up? How can you prepare ahead of time and continue to pursue healing in that relationship?
- Close by praying for each other to take the next steps toward unity in community.