

IT'S
3:16

A 7-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

3

**A
Baptism
Like No
Other**

Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another.

If you could transform into any animal for one day, which one would you choose? How would you spend that day?

Play the "Session Three: A Baptism Like No Other" video lesson.

What stood out to you from the video?

In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.

Read Matthew 3:4-6, 11-17

1. How do the words of Matthew 3:16 change the way we think about God? How do they change the way we think about ourselves? How do they change the way we live and act in the world?



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MATTHEW 3:16

2. In the video session, we heard about different reasons why people would seek to become baptized. If you have been baptized (and if you are willing to share), discuss the reasons that led you to make that decision. How did your life change after you were baptized?

3. Imagine you are John the Baptist in this story, and Jesus approaches you and asks you to baptize Him. What thoughts would run through your mind? How would you feel? What would Jesus' example teach you about the meaning of baptism?

4. After Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. How does the Holy Spirit partner with us when we are baptized in the name of the Lord? Why do we need to repent and turn away from a life of sin in order to pursue a life led by the Spirit of God?

5. When Jesus rose from the water, a voice from heaven declared that He was well-pleased with His Son. If the Lord spoke from heaven right now to encourage you, what would you hope He would say? What message do you need to hear from the Lord today?

Read Romans 6:1-14

6. According to these verses, what is the reason we are baptized? How does our baptism unite us with Jesus?

7. How does Christ free us from sin's mastery over us through baptism? What does this look like in the Christian life? Without sharing too many details, how has the Lord personally freed you from your sins?

For over a thousand years, Christians have used the Scriptures to practice a simple form of meditation called lectio divina. In Latin, the practice means “divine reading,” and millions of believers throughout history have found wisdom and comfort from this ancient practice. Each week during this series, we will guide you through a version of this meditation practice that you can use either in a group or on your own.

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of meditation.

1

Read the words of Matthew 3:16, “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.” Read those words several times over a few minutes, paying attention to every small detail. Focus on anything that stands out.

2

Imagine that the Holy Spirit is speaking the words of this verse directly to you. Pay attention to how you feel as the Spirit speaks to you. Notice the thoughts that pass through your mind. Spend a few minutes meditating upon what the Spirit is saying to you.

3

Shift from a time of meditation to a time of prayer. Use the next few minutes to share with God what you think and feel about the word He spoke to you. Bring up any questions you might have for Him. Ask Him to lead you to understand and experience His truth.

4

In order to end this prayer meditation, simply sit in silence for a few minutes and listen to what the Spirit says to you. Notice what the Lord is teaching you through His word. When your time of silence is complete, thank the Lord for guiding you into His wisdom and love.

During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a “perfect” answer. Simply write what comes to mind.

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

What is a sin or an unhealthy habit that you’ve had a difficult time leaving behind? If you were to develop a plan by which you would get that sinful habit under control, what would it look like?

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports