



# encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

## **disciple:**

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

**01** Print the PDF.

-or-

**02** Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.

-or-

**03** Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

### **5 Marks of a Disciple**

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of February 12<sup>th</sup> // Conversation February 18<sup>th</sup>  
**Jesus' Baptism**





This coming Sunday, we're going to be celebrating some baptisms at church! Let's take a look at Jesus's baptism to get our hearts and minds ready to celebrate with our brothers and sisters who are taking this step of obedience in their faith.

## pray.

When you pray, you can remind God about who He is. You can say thank you to God because He is love (1 John 4:7-8). Because of Jesus's sacrifice, you know what love looks like (1 John 3:16). You can Praise God that He is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He is your solid Rock, your Fortress, your Rescuer, your Shield, your salvation's strength, and your place of safety (Psalm 18:2).

## observe.

Marking key words in passages of Scripture helps to draw your attention to the main ideas/themes. It causes you to slow down and absorb what you're reading.

- 01** Put a  over every mention of God.
- 02** Put a  over every mention of Jesus.
- 03**  every time John the Baptist is mentioned.
- 04** Put a  around references to baptizing, baptism and baptize.

### **Matthew 3 (select verses) (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, <sup>2</sup> “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.

<sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. <sup>6</sup> And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?” <sup>8</sup> Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. <sup>9</sup> Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.<sup>14</sup>

But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. <sup>16</sup> After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

## interpret.

**01** What was the message that John the Baptist was preaching in verse 2?

**02** In verse 6, what did the people do BEFORE they were baptized?

# interpret.

**03** What was John's challenge to the Pharisees and Sadducees in verse 8?

**04** What was the reason Jesus gave for why He needed to be baptized by John in verse 15?

**05** What happened after Jesus was baptized?

# apply.

- 01** Why do you think people confessed their sins before they were baptized?
- 02** What do you think baptism was a symbol of, based upon what you just read?
- 03** What do you think baptism was a symbol of, based upon what you just read?
- 04** What is the significance of Jesus being baptized by John? In other words, if He got baptized, what does that mean for us as believers? Should we follow suit?

# bring it together.

John the Baptist said he wasn't even worthy to carry Jesus's sandals like a slave. How could he possibly baptize the One about which he had been prophesying?

Jesus answered and said that, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." If Jesus was baptized, we should be too!

So what's the point of baptism? What does it symbolize? Stay tuned for Sunday's message to find out!

## connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 [info@gtwy.church](mailto:info@gtwy.church)

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

 [www.gtwy.church/groups](http://www.gtwy.church/groups)

[we value your input. click or scan here to provide feedback](#)

