

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, September 14th, 2025

Series: **“Understanding the Sacraments”**

Message: **“Learning from the Baptism of Jesus”**

Sermon Text: **Matthew 3:13-17**; Old Testament Text: **Ezekiel 36:25-27**; Gospel Text: **Luke 5:17**. Read **Matthew 3:13-17** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Matthew 3:13-14**. Why was John the Baptist so opposed to baptizing Jesus?

Why was there absolutely no reason for Jesus to be baptized in John the Baptist's baptism of repentance?

2. Read **Matthew 3:15**. How did Jesus's baptism *fulfill all righteousness*?

3. Read **Luke 3:21-23a**: *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” ²³ Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.*

What does this passage reveal to you about Jesus's baptism?

Why was this so important?

4. Read **Matthew 3:16**. How would you have felt if you had been one of the people baptized with Jesus and witnessed this amazing display?

5. Read **Matthew 3:17**. How would you have felt if you had been one of the people baptized with Jesus and heard what God said to Him?

6. What five things did Jesus's baptism reveal to us?

7. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Ezekiel 36:25-27** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. How does this passage help us better understand **Ezekiel 36:25-27**?
 2. Having now read **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, to what is Ezekiel pointing in the future with these words?
 3. How does this future event accomplish what's described in these two passages?
 4. What is required of us to receive what is promised in these two passages?
- II. Next read **Luke 5:17-26**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Why do you think Luke felt compelled to say in v. 17, *And the power of the Lord was with him to heal*?
 2. How does this verse help us to understand why Jesus's ministry didn't start until after His baptism?
 3. What is the implied message to all who believe in Jesus and have been baptized in His name?
 4. How often do you reflect on this truth in your own life?
 5. Do you think you might feel better equipped for ministry if you owned this truth daily?
- III. Read **Matthew 3:13-17**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Matthew 3:13-14**. Why was John the Baptist so opposed to baptizing Jesus?
 2. Why was there absolutely no reason for Jesus to be baptized in John the Baptist's baptism of repentance?
 3. Read **Matthew 3:15**. How did Jesus's baptism *fulfill all righteousness*?
 4. Read **Luke 3:21-23a**: *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."²³ Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.*
What does this passage reveal to you about Jesus's baptism?

5. Why was this so important?
6. Read **Matthew 3:16**. How would you have felt if you had been one of the people baptized with Jesus and witnessed this amazing display?
7. Read **Matthew 3:17**. How would you have felt if you had been one of the people baptized with Jesus and heard what God said to Him?
8. What five things did Jesus's baptism reveal to us?