



DECIDED

Water Baptism

The D-Cycle is a curriculum containing content designed to establish the scriptural foundations of the faith in the life of a believer.

VISION FOR WATER BAPTISM

Water Baptism is the third point in the Decided portion of the D-Cycle. Water Baptism is a physical action in obedience to Jesus following repentance and faith in Him. Water Baptism is not merely an outward sign, but an external manifestation of a spiritual reality at work in the life of a believer.

Key Definitions

- **Water Baptism:** the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, his Son Jesus, and Holy Spirit

HEAD

Summary of Points

1. **Baptism is a command by Jesus for all who follow Him to be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**
Baptism is part of the process of obeying God. Jesus, even though he was perfect, got baptized declaring that it was to “fulfill all righteousness” or to live in right relationship with God.
2. **Baptism occurs in the context of community**
Baptism isn’t a private event, it typically happens in the context of others who can celebrate our decision to follow Jesus and support us moving forward.
3. **Baptism requires repentance and faith in the saving work of Jesus on the cross**
Before baptism, we must choose to change our mind and ways about the way the world works and follow in Jesus’ ways.
4. **In being immersed in water, we are being buried with Christ in His death.**
5. **In the same way Jesus was raised from the dead by the Father, we are raised into newness of life when we come out of the water.**
6. **Baptism is a physical event that affects our whole being – body, soul, spirit.**

Lifegroup Scriptures

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

Romans 5:20-6:14

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3:3-17

D-Group Scriptures

Philip and the Eunuch

Acts 8:26-40

Cornelius and Peter

Acts 10

Baptism at Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41

Baptism as Circumcision

Colossians 2:11-15

Discussion Methods

Below are two suggested methods for discussing Scripture.

| Traditional DBS New Testament Letters | Inductive Bible Study Gospels, Acts, Old Testament Accounts |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What does this say about God?2. What does this say about me/people?3. What is my obedient response? | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Observation – What happened?2. Interpretation – What does it mean?3. Application – How can I obey? |

HEART

Questions

1. How have you responded to Jesus' command to be baptized?
2. What obstacles in your life (if any) would prevent you from being baptized?
3. What does it mean for you to be dead to sin through baptism?
4. What does it mean for you to be raised to new life in Christ through baptism?

Lifegroup content ends here

HANDS

Discipleship Actions

1. If you have not been baptized since you believed in Jesus, get baptized.
2. List some characteristics of your old self versus your new self. What are the implications of walking in new resurrected life?

RESOURCES

Books

- [The Doctrine of Baptisms](#) – Derek Prince