

COMMAND: BE BAPTIZED

EXPANDED LEADER INFORMATION

<i>Looking Back</i>	<i>Looking Up</i>	<i>Looking Forward</i>
1. CARE • PRAISES/REQUESTS • PRAY FOR EACH OTHER 2. LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY • ABIDE? • MISSION STATEMENT? • PREVIOUS GOAL(S)	3. WORSHIP + SEEK • 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 4. VISION • GREAT COMMISSION 5. NEW LESSON • COMMAND > STORY > READ > ASK > EXPLORE	6. SETTING GOALS • HOW WILL WE OBEY AND APPLY THE COMMAND? 7. PRACTICE • 20 SEC TESTIMONY 3 CIRCLES OIKOS MAP 8. COMMISSION

NEW LESSON

READ THE COMMAND: IN MATTHEW 28:19, JESUS SAYS...

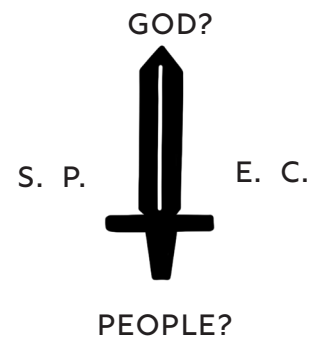
TELL THE STORY: PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL (ACTS 8:26-39)

- RETELL THE STORY TOGETHER

READ THE STORY ALOUD

DISCOVER/ASK: USE THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD TO DISCUSS THE STORY AND REVEAL ITS MEANING FOR OUR LIVES

- PRACTICE TELLING THE STORY



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- In the Isaiah passage being quoted here, we see two things: (1) How incredible God is in revealing and confirming what He is going to do by having it prophesied hundreds of years beforehand... something He has done time and time again; and (2) Even in the face of being denied justice and what would be His (worldly) rights, He silently went to the cross. He could have said the right things or executed power to avoid the cross, but He chose to die for us instead!
- It was also neat to see how God sometimes sends heavenly help, like the angel of the Lord in verse 26, but also verse 29 we see how the Holy Spirit gives direction as well!

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE?

- We don't always see what is right in front of us!
- We can hear from the Lord and His Spirit!

ARE THERE ANY SINS IN THE PASSAGE TO AVOID?

- None

ARE THERE ANY PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE THAT WE SHOULD BEHOLD ?

- Niot specifically

ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES IN THE PASSAGE TO FOLLOW?

- Be obedient to the Lord when He tells you to go somewhere... even if it doesn't make sense ahead of time.
- Notice in verse 35 that Philip began with the Scripture in Isaiah and preached the good news of Jesus, and in the next verse, the Ethiopian's response to the gospel was to get baptized... this means that being baptized must have been a part of Philip's presentation of the gospel

ARE THERE ANY COMMANDS IN THE PASSAGE TO BE OBEYED?

- Responding to the Good News of the Gospel includes being baptized!

SET GOALS:

- Has your disciple ever been baptized? If so, were they baptized after conversion? If the answer was no to either of those, the most obvious next step of obedience would be to set up a time to get baptized. Invite all his/her friends and family that can to come!

EXPLORE MORE:

A. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- Romans 6:3-4
- Baptism is a symbol of our life, death, & resurrection. We have died to our old life and

been raised to a new life with Jesus

B. WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

- Matthew 3:13-15
- Jesus received baptism; so should we. Receiving baptism means we have identified Jesus as our Lord

C. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- Acts 2:38
- Everyone who repents and believes

D. HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

- Matthew 3:16
- Jesus went down into the water

EXPLORE MORE:

Added Notes:

WHY WE BELIEVE IN AND PRACTICE FULL-IMMERSION BAPTISM:

- First, the language of the text in the original Greek expresses a complete submersion into the water... so does the wording in Matthew 28:18-20 when Jesus commands us to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Second, the concept of going fully under the water symbolizes two undeniable truths about salvation:
- 1- Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12 state that “we have been buried with [Christ] in baptism.” When Jesus died, He was completely dead... not partially dead. When we die to sin and our old selves, we completely die to sin and our old self. A full submersion best illustrates this.
- 2- When we are forgiven of our sins and our sins are “washed away” (1 John 1:9, among many), ALL our sins are forgiven... not just some of them, and not just the small ones. Complete forgiveness. Complete submersion.

WHY WE DON'T BAPTIZE CHILDREN, AND WHY WE SOMETIMES BAPTIZE BELIEVERS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED?

- In absolutely every instance of baptism in the New Testament, a person got baptized after they surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior. In fact, there are zero Scriptural instances or support for the idea of baptizing babies, children, or even adults who haven't surrendered to Jesus yet. Sometimes, people get baptized because they had supposedly made a decision to surrender to Jesus when they hadn't really made that decision themselves, or they didn't even know what it meant at the time. Later, they come to make a decision based from understanding of what it means and request to be baptized again as an act of obedience of a real decision they made the last time around.

WHO CAN BAPTIZE?

- In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands believers to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded. This command is for every believer. If every believer is expected to make disciples, they must also be allowed to baptize their disciples.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WHEN YOU BAPTIZE SOMEONE?

- If other people are present, give them an opportunity to share what decision they are making and how God worked in their life. It is a chance for them to publicly identify with Christ and confess Him before men.

At Phoenix Athens, we like to ask them two questions that help them specifically confess that Jesus is their Lord and Savior:

Question 1- Do you believe that Jesus alone did everything necessary for the forgiveness of your sins? (Jesus as Savior)

Question 2- Are you willing to do whatever He says and go wherever He says? (Jesus as Lord)

While there isn't a specifically set script of what to say when baptizing someone, Matthew 28:18-20 and Romans 6:4. After someone confesses “yes” to the questions above, we typically express our privilege in baptizing them (based on their confession of faith) as our brother/sister in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (based off Matthew 28). As we lower them into the water, we typically say, “buried with Christ in baptism,” and then as we pull them back out of the water we say, “raised to walk in the newness of life” (based off Romans 6:4).