

## **Baptism by Immersion and Communion: Small Group Guide**

### Small Group Guide: Baptism and Communion - Ordinances of Faith

#### Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help everyone understand the significance of baptism and communion in their faith journey.

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Baptism and communion are ordinances, not sacraments. They don't impart salvation but are acts of obedience for believers.
2. Baptism by immersion symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
3. Salvation must come before baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.
4. Communion is an ongoing act of remembrance for believers.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between an ordinance and a sacrament? Why is this distinction important in our understanding of baptism and communion?
2. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 3:16. How do these verses support the practice of baptism by immersion?
3. In your own words, explain why baptism should follow salvation rather than precede it. Can you think of any examples from the Bible that support this order?

4. How does baptism by immersion symbolize our spiritual rebirth in Christ? Why might this symbolism be less clear with other methods like sprinkling?

5. Discuss the significance of communion as an "ongoing act of remembrance." How does regular participation in communion impact your faith?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. What does it mean to take communion in an "unworthy manner"? How can we prepare our hearts properly for communion?

7. For those who have been baptized, share your experience. How did it impact your faith journey? For those who haven't, what questions or hesitations do you have about baptism?

#### Practical Applications:

1. If you haven't been baptized by immersion as a believer, prayerfully consider taking this step of obedience. Discuss any questions or concerns with your group leader or pastor.

2. Before the next communion service, spend time in prayer and self-examination. Consider journaling about what Christ's sacrifice means to you personally.

3. If you were baptized as an infant or by another method, study the biblical examples of baptism. Pray about whether God is calling you to be baptized by immersion as a believer.

4. Create a plan to explain baptism and communion to a new believer or someone unfamiliar with these practices. Practice with your group members.

5. Reflect on how you can make communion more meaningful in your life. Consider starting a tradition of personal reflection or thanksgiving before or after taking communion.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by thanking God for the gift of baptism and communion. Pray for any group members considering baptism and for a deeper appreciation of these ordinances in everyone's faith walk.