

LESSON NO. 11

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

BAP-
TISM

 **vangelism**
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LESSON NO. 11

BAP- TISM

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Biblical Basis: Acts 2:41
Text to memorize: Acts 8:36

PURPOSE

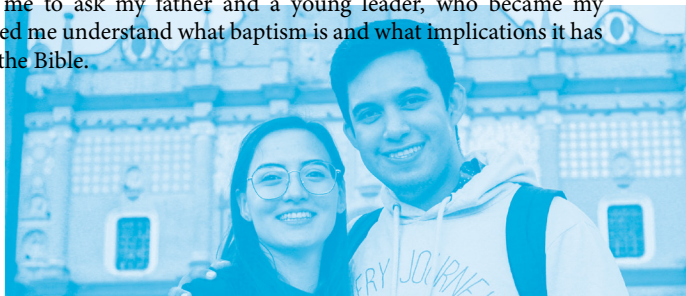
That the new convert receives all the induction about this second step in his new Christian life.

REAL LIFE STORY

I am the second child born into a family whose parents were Christians and Pastors of the Church of the Nazarene. From my young age I began to learn about biblical stories; David against Goliath, Noah's Ark, Moses and the ten plagues, Jesus heals a leper, etc. One of the stories that raised questions in my adolescence was the baptism of Jesus, this story together with the fact of seeing my older brother being baptized in the waters of the sea off the coasts of the Yucatan Peninsula.

What is baptism? Why was my brother baptized? Is it not enough to attend church? Is there something I must do to get baptized? What happens and what will those who are baptized feel?

These concerns prompted me to ask my father and a young leader, who became my discipler, together they helped me understand what baptism is and what implications it has for Christians according to the Bible.



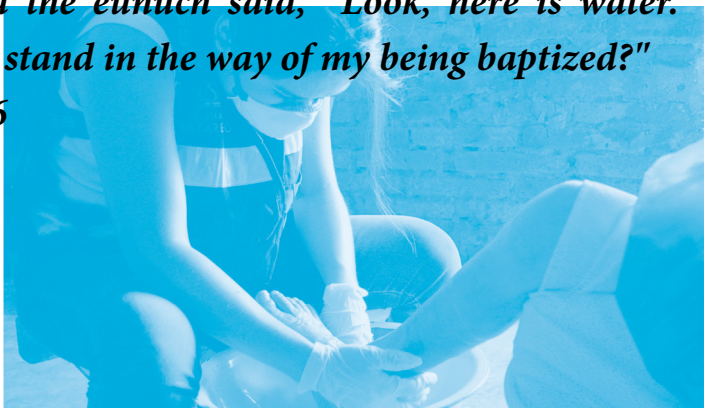
WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

The Christian church was born that same day, the 120 disciples who had been in the Big Room Upstairs received the Holy Spirit and filled with passion and love they took to the streets to preach Jesus crucified and risen.

The narrative that the book of Acts gives us is that Peter raised his voice and made the gospel known, confronting the crowd by making them see that they were living differently from what God had intended, and for this reason they had crucified Jesus, who later God Himself raised from the dead. Hearing Peter's preaching, part of the crowd, feeling guilty, asked; "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), Peter responded with a clear indication; "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

Peter's words indicate two specific actions; the first is to repent, a theme that you already discovered at this point in the previous lessons, the second action is to be baptized, here we return to the questions previously brought up.

***“As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”
- Acts 8:36***



WHAT IS BAPTISM?

What implications does it have for our lives? Who can or should be baptized? Can I be baptized?

The word baptism and its conjugations come from a Greek word used by the authors of the New Testament, this word is "*baptizo*", which could literally be translated as; "leave overwhelmed, completely wet, baptism, baptize, wash." (*Strong. New Strong Exhaustive Concordance. Caribe/Betania Editors. Thomas Nelson, 2002*).

It is a ceremony in which a person makes it known publicly that he has believed in Jesus Christ and has received Him as Lord and Savior, accepting His teachings as the norm that will give direction to his life.

As a community of faith, the Church of the Nazarene has made a statement that is based on a variety of biblical passages that address the subject of baptism, in its twelfth article of faith it says as follows: "We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness. Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training". (*Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. 2017-2021. p. 28*).

This first part makes it clear that it is a command given by the Lord Jesus Christ, which is a means of His grace for those who have believed and manifest their faith through an attitude of obedience to the Lord's commands. If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior, you are called to go to the waters to be baptized, and thus publicly manifest your decision to live obeying His commandments.

The apostle Paul, when teaching the Church that was in the City of Corinth, referred to baptism as the sign of death to our life far from God and His will, to then resurrect and live in a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. (Read Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:6-15).

For his part, the apostle Peter referred to Noah and his family, who was saved by the waters in the flood, now those of us who have believed in Christ and are saved also give testimony when passing through the waters, confirming by this action our faith and belief in God. (Read 1 Peter 3:18-22).



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



Read Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 9:1-18; Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:6-15.

According to Matthew 28, what does a disciple of Jesus must do after receiving the gospel?

According to Acts 9, after believing and receiving healing, what was the next step Ananias took with Saul?

After reading Romans 6 and Colossians 2, what does baptism symbolize for those who have believed in Jesus Christ?





REFLECTION

We have had a first approach to the subject of baptism, there are still questions that we must answer from the biblical teaching that we will take about in the next lesson, however, now we must reflect on what we have learned today.

What is baptism?

Who can and should be baptized?

If at the end of this lesson you have the conviction to take this step of faith in obedience, I invite you to talk with your leader or Pastor so that you can be baptized the next time your church organizes baptisms.



PRACTICE

As we have seen, each disciple who has come to faith in Jesus Christ is commanded to take a step of obedient faith through water baptism, and through it, to publicly display the decision he has made to live in obedience to God's will.

Have you decided to receive this sacrament? Yes () No ()

What is the next date your church will celebrate this sacrament?

Who would you like to invite to join you in this special moment?

Now that you have believed the gospel message, and that you are a disciple of Jesus who has experienced repentance and the new birth, what prevents you from being baptized?

Write down those things that you consider are an impediment for you to take this step of faith and obedience:

We invite you to talk with your Pastor or leader about these reasons why you consider that you cannot or should be baptized, allow God to speak to you through them.

If, when you talk with your leader or Pastor, you come to the conviction of taking this step, talk with them so that the next time you can be baptized.