

**IMMEDIATELY**  
*Spontaneous Baptism 2019*  
**ACTS 16:25-34**

**Baptism is a public celebration testifying that I am a Jesus follower!**

**Group Question:** What plans do you have for the summer? What are you most excited about?

In Acts 16, there is a unique story about baptism...**READ ACTS 16:25-34** “*immediately*” (παραχρημα) without delay or hesitation. Does this mean that *baptism* should always happen immediately when someone comes to know Jesus...NO. It means that *baptism* is a *first step of obedience* that should happen at the first available opportunity after following Jesus.

**Group Questions:**

- Are you a Jesus follower? If you are what’s something new God has been doing in your life?
- Have you been baptized since you began following Jesus? If so share your baptism story.

There are two groups of people here today who should definitely **NOT** get baptized:

**GROUP #1—PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

Baptism is meaningless without a relationship with Jesus! If you don’t know Jesus you don’t need to be baptized, you need to be born again! (Acts 16:30b-31 — “*believe in the Lord Jesus*”) The picture for Baptism is like a wedding ring...a **symbol** of a love relationship that exists between a husband and a wife

**GROUP #2—PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS**

Baptism is not something that happens over and over again in the life of a believer...it’s a public *defining* moment!

Three components to being baptized according to the teaching of Jesus practiced by the NT church:

**After salvation:** The only baptism in the NT after the resurrection of Jesus is a baptism of believers (*no debate, simple Biblical reality*)

**By immersion:** “*baptize*” to immerse, to dip or to plunge; it originally was not a “spiritual” word. It referred to a ship that had been sunk or a piece of cloth being dipped in dye.

**Group Question:** What has your experience about what baptism was from your upbringing?

Other modes began to be practiced as unique circumstances arose (*lack of water, health reasons...*), but the original method is *immersion*

**In fellowship** with a community of believers

Did you notice the powerful relational transformation that took place after baptism?

*“And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.”—Acts 16:34*

This were no longer prisoners under his watch, they were brothers at his table!

*“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”—Acts 2:41*

**What were they added to?** They had already embraced Jesus and spiritually were already a part of God’s family...*they were added to the visible expression of God’s family—local church*

**Baptism declares:** *“I belong to God’s family!”*

**Group Question:** What has it means to you to be a part of the family of God and Hope church?

*“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...” 2 Timothy 1:7-8a*

**Share** any prayer requests you have