



BAPTISM

BOTTOM LINE: If you've made the decision to follow Jesus, then the next step is making it public.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Student Notebooks

icebreaker question

ASK: What is the newest thing that you own? What does it mean to have something new? Do you like old things or new things more?

hear from God through His Word.

DO THIS: Read **Colossians 2:12** as a group and then lead your students in a discussion about the passage using the questions below.

- Tell your students to open their Bibles to **Colossians 2:12** and ask someone to read it out loud for the group.
- **ASK:** What does this verse say about baptism?
- **ASK:** What does it mean to be "buried" and "raised"? How do you think this relates to our relationship with Jesus?

say this:
 Jesus died, was buried, and then rose again to forgive us of our sins and give us new life. Baptism symbolizes this life change. When we go under the water, we are "buried with Christ", when we come up, we are "raised to new life."

talk with others about our faith.

DO THIS: Lead your students in a discussion about baptism using the questions below.

- **ASK:** Has anyone been baptized? Tell us about it!
- **ASK:** Do you think someone has to be baptized in order to go to Heaven? Why or why not?
- **ASK:** Why do you think Jesus commands us to get baptized?
- **ASK:** If you haven't been baptized, what do you think is stopping you from taking this next step?

say this:

Baptism isn't a requirement for someone to be saved and go to Heaven. Baptism is simply a public symbol of a private faith. It's something that Jesus did Himself and asks that we do as well to let the world know that we're His followers.



live in a way that honors God.

DO THIS: Give your students the following **LIVE** challenge for this week.

- Set aside some time this week to ask Jesus when you should get baptized. Ask Him if this is something that He is calling you to do. If you hear a response or sense that this is the next step you should take, go to <http://www.saddlebackjhm.com/baptisms> and sign up.

pray by talking to God.

DO THIS: Lead your students in a time of prayer as a group using the prompts below.

- Tell your students that baptism is the next step in our faith after we have committed our lives to Jesus. If one of your students have never made the decision to follow Jesus and they want to, lead them in this prayer: *Dear Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I ask that You forgive me for my sins and help me to live a life for You. I accept You as my Lord and Savior and I am choosing to turn from my old self and follow You with all of my heart for the rest of my life. Amen.*
- If all of your students have made the decision to follow Jesus already, lead them in a prayer of gratitude for their salvation. Tell them to thank Jesus for saving them and forgiving them of all their sins.

memory verse

"Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead"

Colossians 2:12