

Long Story Short: Jesus & Me: Baptism

Reflect

1. Water is a powerful tool used throughout the scriptures; discuss some of the images of water used throughout God's Word.
2. What does water mean to you, what images does it impart unto you?
3. The sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are filled with a wonderful mystery. Speak to the use of the ordinary (water, bread) mixed with the extraordinary (God's Spirit) and the experience that unfolds.

Read

Mark 1:9-12 & Titus 3:4-6

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Why is Baptism important?
2. Baptism is an act of obedience not some religious ritual that magically saves us and gets us into heaven. It is a powerful reminder that we are claimed by God and even more than that, that God lives in us. It is God's doing; God is the one that initiates our relationship. God has done the work. Reread the Titus text. What has baptism done for you?
3. Martin Luther tells us to live into the promises of our baptism daily. He says we should be reminded daily that we need a Savior, one to wash us clean of our sinfulness. That we are to daily drown our sinful and be raised again to new life in Christ Jesus. What are some baptismal reminders in your daily life?
4. Our culture is very familiar with the restart button. How is daily living into our baptismal promises similar to hitting our personal restart button?

There is a considerable amount of mystery surrounding the why's and what's of Jesus' baptism. We know that something profound occurred and the presence of God was powerfully present. It also showed Christ's connectedness to humanity. Not that He needed forgiveness of sins but that He modeled the way to live. To live into our baptisms, we need to be washed by God's grace; we need to be nourished by God's holy waters. We need to be made new by the power of God's Spirit, being continually transformed by God's claim that we are His.

Pray

Gracious God, we are grateful for Your saving work through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are grateful that through the waters of baptism You have claimed us as Yours and nourished our souls with mercy and grace. Help us to daily live into the sacrament of our baptism. In Jesus' name. Amen.