

## Overview

Water is a symbol of a “crossing over” into a new life throughout scripture. When John the Baptist arrived on the scene, he began to baptize Jews, calling them to change the direction of their lives, moving into the kingdom of God. Jesus baptized His disciples, immersing them into a new life of following and connecting with Him. As Peter moved the gospel out to the world outside of the Jewish community, God made it plain to him that all are invited to be included in this public identification of life with Jesus. Paul invited us to join with all others in One baptism as well as reminding us of the resurrected life we now live, pictured in the experience of baptism. We now are invited to re-engage with God as we step into baptism or as we consider how we can “live wet”.

## Big Idea

When we re-engage with God we find ourselves considering the meaning and invitation of baptism.

## Connect with Each Other

What rivers, lakes, or oceans have you enjoyed? What is your favorite and why?

## Connect with the Big Idea

Water seems to be a significant picture in scripture. Brainstorm all Biblical stories that you are aware of, in which water is a significant element of the story.

## Connect with the Message

- Baptism is a sacrament or a sign of an invisible reality. What was the function of baptism in Judaism prior to the coming of John the Baptist?
- Read Matthew 3:1-13. What was the message of John the Baptist?  
Restate this message in your own words if you haven't already.
  - Who was John's message directed to? (vs 5,6)
  - This was a change. Why was John now directing this invitation to baptism to the Jews?
  - Why did John speak so harshly to the Pharisees?
  - What light does this shed on the state of a person who is ready to meaningfully engage in the sign of baptism?
- Read Acts 10:27-48 What hesitation did Peter have regarding those who wanted to be baptized?
- Read Eph 4:5; Hebrews 11:39. We are stepping into an ancient river as we are baptized, joining our stories with God and others who came before

## Notes:

us.

- What Christ followers who have gone before you (from the Bible or that you know of personally) have inspired your faith?
- What is your reaction as you think of your story joining with theirs?

## Connecting the Message to Our Lives

If you have been baptized, share about your baptism experience.

What do you think Ed meant when he challenged us to “live wet”?

Read Col. 3:3. A new you is possible as you experience the death of your brokenness and the resurrection of the new you, the person you were created to be. Even Vincent Van Gogh could envision this new “him” in his painting ‘Resurrection of Lazarus’. Share one characteristic of the emerging “new you” that you look forward to becoming.

### Spiritual Practice- Community/Participation in the sacrament of baptism.

Talk with your group about celebrating Journey’s baptism together as a group on Sept. 29.

## Prayer

Pray together for those being baptized this coming Sunday.

Ask God to help each of you to live “wet” and to step into the new person you are to become as you are resurrected into new life with Jesus.