



## **WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?**

As you go through each lesson, look up the Bible verses and answer the questions in the blanks provided. When you are finished with this lesson you and your mentor will meet to discuss your answers and any questions you may have. This is not a pass/fail test, so answer honestly as you understand things. We want you to understand, not just to give the “right” answer.

People have all sorts of ideas about baptism. Some people sprinkle water on babies and call that baptism. Others pour water over someone’s head from a pitcher or a special carafe.

**Baptists put people in a baptistery or another large body of water and dunk them completely underwater “in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.” Why do they do that?**

**THIS LESSON IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHY BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT AND WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED, HOW ONE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED – AND WHEN ONE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.**

***Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)*** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**Here are four things you should know about water baptism:**

1. What does the word “baptism” mean?
2. Who can be baptized?
3. What is Bible-baptism?
4. What is the formula and mode of baptism?

**1. What does the word “baptism” mean?** Read carefully **Acts 8:29-40**

The Greek word for “baptize” or “baptism” is “*baptizo*” which means to dip, to immerse, to submerge, to put under water and cover completely. So, when the Bible is speaking about baptism, it is not talking about sprinkling or some other meaning which men give it.

**2. Who can be baptized?** Read **Acts 8:36,37**

Only persons who truly have believed and accepted Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior should be baptized. We should never ask ourselves as a Christian, “*Should I get baptized?*” but “*When can I be baptized?*”

**3. What is Bible-baptism?**

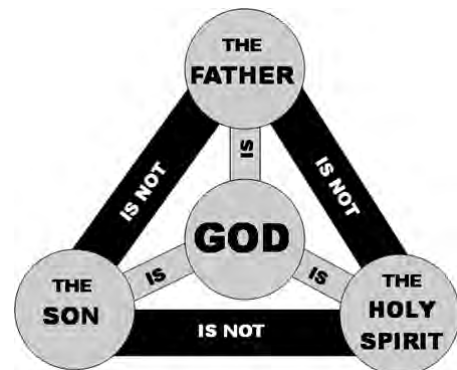
According to the Scriptures, Bible-baptism is the immersion of believers in water. It is symbolic (a picture) of the *death, burial, and resurrection* of our blessed Lord Jesus. It is an open, public declaration of our identification with Jesus Christ.

See **Romans 6:1-5** and **Galatians 2:20**.

**4. What is the formula and mode of baptism?**

**Matthew 28:19** says, “. . . baptizing them [the saved] in the name [not names] of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

**Note:** The “name” (singular) tells us that while the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three persons, they are of one essence, and are called by one name — “God.” The three persons are not three gods, but three personalities who are one Triune (three-in-one) God.



## Discipleship Lesson #3: What about BAPTISM?

Here are some more things to consider regarding water baptism:

1. **Was Jesus scripturally baptized?** Read **Matthew 3:13-16**

Yes     No

2. **Did Jesus go down into the river or was a cup of water all that was poured on His head?** Read **Matthew 3:13-16**

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3. **Can baptism wash away our sins?** Read **Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:14,15**

Yes     No

4. **Does water baptism have any connection with salvation?** Read **Ephesians 2:8,9**

Yes     No

5. **What is the only thing that cleanses us from our sins?**

Read **Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20**

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6. **Who sent believers to baptize all who believe and are saved?**

Read **Matthew 28:19,20**

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7. **Was this an “option” or a “command?”** Read **Matthew 28:19,20**

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8. **How many believers should be baptized?** Read **Acts 2:38**

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9. **What condition must be met in order to be “scripturally” baptized?**

Read **Acts 8:36,37**

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Discipleship Lesson #3: What about BAPTISM?

10. Is it possible for babies or children who have never been saved to be “scripturally” baptized? Read Acts 8:36,37

Yes     No

11. What does this tell you about “infant baptism”?

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12. What attitude toward sin and the “old life” does baptism indicate? Read Romans 6:6,11

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13. How soon after salvation were the people baptized? Read Acts 2:41; Acts 8:26-40

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14. Have you been scripturally baptized since you received Jesus Christ as your *Lord* and Savior?

Yes     No

**Remember** — Baptism in water is an outward sign of what has taken place already in your heart. By being baptized publicly in water, you are giving a testimony that you have forsaken the old ways of sin, turned your back on the Devil, and accepted Jesus for salvation and complete guidance in your life.

15. What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know before?

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## 16. How can you make this a part of your everyday life?

# MEMORIZE THESE VERSES for Lesson Three

(pick the translation that works best for you)

Title to verses: **BAPTISM**

**Acts 2:41 (KJV)** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

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

**Romans 6:4 (KJV)** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:4 (NASB)** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.



# ACCOUNTABILITY PAGE

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Mentor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date I completed Lesson Three: \_\_\_\_\_

My Mentor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



HAMILTON SQUARE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**Remember:**

*It's important to be at church whenever you are able, so you can continue to grow in the Lord!*

**SUNDAYS**

9:45 am – Bible Study or Sunday School

10:50 am – Morning Worship Service

*Lunch & Mingle*

1:30 pm – Afternoon Church Service

**WEDNESDAYS**

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study & Prayer Meeting



# DIGGING DEEPER

*OPTIONAL: Extra information*



## What the Bible says about Baptism

Most churches have something to say about baptism. Each one has a different way and often have different reasons to do it. Why don't they agree regarding the time to be baptized? What does the Bible say?

## Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

Study the following verses, and then answer the question for yourself.

## WE CANNOT BE SAVED BY WORKS – EVEN BAPTISM

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** (KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: *Not of works*, lest any man should boast.
  - **Ephesians 2:8-9** (NASB) For by grace *you have been saved* through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 *not as a result of works*, so that no one may boast.
- **Titus 3:5-6** (KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

The purpose for baptism is not for salvation. It is a picture or representation of what happens when we are saved. Compare it to a picture of a bride or a picture of a loaf of bread. A bride or a loaf of bread can be represented by a picture, but no bridegroom would be satisfied with only a picture of his bride, and nobody had their hunger satisfied by a picture of a loaf of bread.

## WHY GET BAPTIZED?

- **Jesus said to do it.** **Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- **The Apostles preached and practiced it.**  
**Acts 2:41 (KJV)** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- **Jesus did it.** **Matthew 3:16 (KJV)** And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him.



## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

**Only those who are saved by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior should be baptized.**

- **Acts 2:41 (KJV)** Then *they that gladly received his word* were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- **Acts 8:37-39 (KJV)** And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, *If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.* And he answered and said, *I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.* And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the



## Discipleship Lesson #3: What about BAPTISM?

eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

- **Acts 16:31-33** (KJV) And they said, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; *and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

### HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

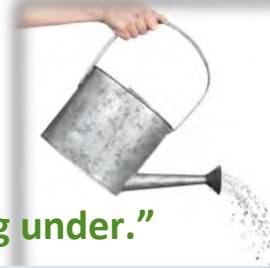
The English word “baptize” is taken directly from the Greek word “*baptizo*” which means “to dunk”, or “to immerse.” Anything less than immersion is not really true Biblical baptism.

- ***Jesus was baptized by the immersion of the whole body in water.*** **Matthew 3:16** (KJV) And Jesus, *when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:* and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:
- ***Philip the Evangelist baptized the newly-saved Ethiopian by the immersion of the whole body in water.*** **Acts 8:38-39** (KJV) ...*They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.*
- ***The Apostle Paul compared baptism to a burial or the planting of a seed into the ground followed by a living and transforming resurrection.*** **Romans 6:3-6** (KJV) Know ye not, that so many of us as were *baptized* into Jesus Christ were *baptized* into his death? Therefore we are *buried with him by baptism* into death: that like as Christ was *raised up* from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been *planted*

## Discipleship Lesson #3: What about BAPTISM?

together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his *resurrection*: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- **Baptism is unto death** (vs. 3)
- **Baptism is by burial** (vs. 4)
- **Baptism is planting** (vs. 5)
- **You bury and plant by “putting under.”**



**SPRINKLING  
AND POURING  
DO NOT PICTURE  
BIBLE BAPTISM**

### WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

**AS SOON AS YOU CAN AFTER YOU ARE SAVED!**

- **Acts 2:41** (KJV) *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
- **Acts 16:30-33** (KJV) *...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*
- **There are many who say, “Just pray about it and let God lead you – and then do it.”** The Bible says, *“Believe and be baptized.”*

### WHERE SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- **All Bible baptisms were associated with a local Bible-preaching church; and those who were baptized soon joined that local church after they were baptized.**
- **There were no private baptisms in the Bible**, except for the Ethiopian in **Acts 8**. *He may have been alone, but since he was a high-ranking official, it is likely that others were with him who could have witnessed his baptism. Philip was a recognized spiritual leader in the local church at Jerusalem who was directed and carried by the Holy Spirit to take a “short-term mission trip” to minister to this Ethiopian politician.*

# PROCEDURES FOR BAPTISM

at Hamilton Square Baptist Church

1. Let one of the pastors know that you would like to be baptized.
2. They will inform you of the date and time for your baptism. Baptism services normally take place on the second Sunday of the month, during the afternoon service, but we will arrange the timing as necessary.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

The church provides modest baptism apparel for both men and women. Wear your regular clothing to church. You will be shown to a private dressing room, where you may change into the church's baptismal garments. There is a separate dressing area for men and for women.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Men should bring a change of underwear and socks; Women only need to bring a change of undergarments. You will wear your own undergarments under the provided baptismal robe, therefore these will get wet and you will need to change them after you are baptized.

Both men and women should bring their own comb or hairbrush.

## DO I NEED TO BRING A TOWEL?

No. The church provides towels for everyone being baptized. The church also provides a hair dryer for those who may need it.

## WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?

Please be at the church at least 30 minutes before the church service in which you will be baptized. You will meet with the pastor who is baptizing you, and he will give you last minute information before the service begins. Upon the completion of your brief meeting with the pastor, you will be shown to the dressing area to prepare for your baptism.



HAMILTON SQUARE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE

### *Lesson Schedule*

Lesson #1	What Happens When One is “Born Again?”	Salvation
Lesson #2	What to Do When You Fall	Confession of Sin
Lesson #3	What About Baptism?	Baptism
Lesson #4	How to Pray & Why Should I?	Prayer
Lesson #5	Bible Study: Making it Personal	Bible Study
Lesson #6	Obedience Brings Blessing	Obedience
Lesson #7	Church Membership Matters	Membership
Lesson #8	Tithes & Offerings: Bible Principles	Giving
Lesson #9	Overcoming Sexual Sin & Temptation	Victory
Lesson #10	Our Lord’s Commission	Witnessing
Lesson #11	Putting Anger & Bitterness to Rest	Bitterness
Lesson #12	Alcohol & Other Addictive Substances	Addictions
Lesson #13	Music and the Christian	Music
Lesson #14	Social Media, TV, Movies, The Internet & The Future	Media
Lesson # 15	Biblical Separation: The Dangers of Compromise	Separation
Lesson #16	Bloom Where You’re Planted! Staying in the City	City Ministry
Lesson #17	Happiness Forever: The Fruit of Faithfulness	Heaven

If you have questions, ask your mentor to help you.  
If he or she can’t help you, they will help you set up an appointment  
with a pastor at our church. They are here to help you!