

# Here Is Water

## BAPTISM WEEKEND

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*Acts 8:26-40 // Todd Dugard // June 4-5, 2016*

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### WARMING UP

1. Share your personal baptism story. When? Where? What? Why? (And/or share a funny baptism story like Pastor Todd's about Joel and the drain.)

### DIGGING IN

2. *The person.* Read Acts 8:26-37; 2:37-38, 41; and Galatians 3:27. What do these passages indicate about who baptism is for? What do the terms "paedobaptism" and "credobaptism" mean? How should a person who was baptized as an infant think about that action?
3. *The purpose.* Pastor Todd outlined four main purposes for baptism:
  - Look up Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:11-12. How does baptism actually depict the redemptive work of Christ? (Side note: How is this also true of the Lord's Supper?) Why is it so important for us to highlight this gospel reality?
  - Turn to Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 2:38. How is baptism a "personal response of faith"? What are the implications of the fact that baptizing/being baptized is a biblical imperative?
  - How would you explain the idea that baptism is a "means of grace"?
  - What statement did baptism make in the first century? How does it continue to be a powerful testimony today? What does it pronounce clearly and compellingly?
4. *The timing.* Read Acts 8:36; 2:37-38; 10:47-48; and 16:14-15, 32-33. Based on these texts, when should a person be baptized? What reasons/excuses do Christ followers sometimes use to put off their baptism? How should we respond to these justifications?
5. *The mode.* Look up Acts 8:36-39 and John 3:22-23. What do these passages seem to model about the proper mode for baptism? How do both symbolism (see Romans 6:3-4) and word origin (βαπτίζω = baptizō = baptize) also support this approach?
6. How did Pastor Todd explain the difference in approach to baptism among Roman Catholics, mainline Protestant/Reformed churches, and Baptist churches (like Harvest)? Why is this distinction so crucial?
7. *The place.* Considering the passages listed above, where should a baptism occur? What are the necessities? Can you envision any locations where a baptism shouldn't take place?
8. *The benefits.* Pastor Todd reminded us of the biblical principle that "obedience brings blessing." How does baptism benefit you, other Christ followers, and the unbelievers around us?

### BREAKING OUT

9. Are you living in the blessing that comes with obedience? Have you been baptized? If not, why not? When will you do it? If yes, what other biblical command(s) are you failing to follow? What is your next step?