

BEYOND SUNDAY

5.25.25

We Believe in One Baptism for the Forgiveness of Sins — Mark Turney

RELATIONAL CONNECTION (ICEBREAKER)

- 1. Share a Story:** When you think about your baptism (or a baptism you've witnessed), what stands out most — the emotion, the symbolism, the people? How did it shape your view of belonging?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

2. Romans 6:3–4 — United with Christ in His death and resurrection

- Read the passage aloud. What does it mean that baptism unites us with Jesus in His death and resurrection?
- How does this challenge or affirm your understanding of baptism?

3. Galatians 3:26–28 — Equity in Christ

- How does baptism redefine the labels our world uses to divide us (e.g., gender, race, class)?
- What would it look like for your group or church to more fully live into this reality?

4. Romans 12:4–5 — Members of one body

- Paul says, "each member belongs to all the others." How does that truth shift our view of church membership?
- What might change if we thought of church not as an event to attend, but as a body we belong to?

IDENTITY & BELONGING

5. Baptism as Adoption

- The sermon uses an adoption story to describe baptism. What's the significance of receiving a new name or identity in Christ?
- In what ways do you wrestle with forming your identity apart from God?

6. Constructed vs. Received Identity

- Our culture encourages us to define and create ourselves. How is that different from what baptism teaches about receiving an identity from God?
- Is that idea freeing or challenging for you?

COMMUNITY & RESPONSIBILITY

7. Your Role in the Church Family

- According to the sermon, baptism makes us members, not spectators. What role are you playing (or could you play) in this church family? What holds people back from contributing?

8. What If We Remembered Our Baptism?

- Luther said, "I am baptized." Not "I was." What might change in your daily life if you regularly remembered your baptismal identity?

EQUITY & HISTORY

9. Richard Allen and the AME Church

- The story of Richard Allen shows what happens when baptismal identity is denied. How does this story challenge how we treat others in the church today — especially those from different backgrounds?

LOOKING FORWARD

10. Call to Action

- If you've been baptized, what's one area in your life where you want to live out your baptism more fully this week?
- If you haven't been baptized, what questions are you still carrying? What might help you take that next step?