

Wherever we are on our journey, we will take next steps to know and become more like Jesus.

One of the most powerful ways we do this at Jacob's Well is through the celebration of baptism. You might have heard we have a big baptism celebration, Splash, coming up Sunday, August 11th at 10:00 AM—you don't want to miss it! This week's devotional will help you prepare for our baptism celebration wherever you are on your journey. Have you already been baptized? You can spend time this week in the devotional remembering and celebrating the choice you have made and the transformation you have experienced. Or maybe you haven't been baptized—is that a next step for you? You can use this devotional to dig in and discern where baptism might fit in your faith walk.

Want to get baptized at Splash? It's not too late!

Email Jenna Kaiser at jkaiser@jacobswellchurch.church to talk more.

Monday, August 5th

Read Mark 1:9-11

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The word "baptize" comes from the Greek work "baptizo" which means "to immerse or submerge under water." Here, Jesus starts his ministry on earth by being baptized.

What is significant about Jesus being baptized? What do you think Jesus' baptism expressed about his ministry on earth?

What example is Jesus setting for us? Why might baptism be the symbol that proclaims you've decided to follow Jesus?

If you've chosen to be baptized, what about Jesus' example helped you make that decision? If you haven't been baptized, what about Jesus' example do you want to consider following? What has kept you from following his example?

Tuesday, August 6th

Read Acts 8:32-38

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

The eunuch encountered Scripture in verse 32 that didn't make a lot of sense to him. When have you encountered challenging or confusing parts of Scripture?

Why do you think Philip shared the good news with the eunuch in response to his confusion? What is the good news? How has the good news offered you clarity on what is confusing? Why do you think the eunuch's response to the good news was to get baptized?

What is surprising about the eunuch's response? What did your response to the good news look like? The eunuch's response to the good news was "what prevents me from being baptized?" If you haven't been baptized but you have heard the good news, what's preventing you from being baptized?

Wednesday, August 7th

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

According to these verses, what is the gospel (or good news) about Jesus?

To believe in vain would be to believe without producing result; a useless belief. What results should we see when someone believes the good news? What results have you seen in your own life?

Think ahead to the next year—what impact would you like the good news to have on your life? What areas of your life would you like to see Jesus' transformation? What steps might you need to take? Spend time in prayer, bringing those areas to the Lord.

Thursday, August 8th

Read Romans 6:4-5

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death and resurrection. What is the significance of being united with Jesus in this way? What promise and future is verse 5 referring to? How might baptism be part of casting hope for that promise?

What does it mean to walk in newness of life? Where have you found newness of life?

At Splash this year, you'll notice those getting baptized wearing a shirt that says "Made New" on it—a declaration of the truth we read in Romans 6. How have you declared that you have been made new and are continuing to be made new? What steps might Jesus be leading you to make to declare that you have been made new?

Friday, August 9th

Read Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Why do you think Jesus' final "great commission" included baptism? Why would baptism be linked to making disciples of all nations?

Do you think the symbol of baptism might be linked to Jesus' promise in verse 20? What encouragement does that offer you?

Spend some time reflecting—where is God leading you in this season? What might He desire to make new? Where might He have you go and take steps? How is He fulfilling the promise of verse 20 in your life?

Jesus, help us to have the courage to follow you boldly. Would you make our steps to know and become like you abundantly clear to us. Show us where you are making things new and help us show those around you the good news.

