
In His Own Words:
“Baptized into the Name”
Matthew 28: 16-20

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“A sacrament is an outward sign by which the Lord seals on our consciences the promises of His good will towards us in order to sustain the weakness of our faith, and we in turn attest our piety toward Him in the presence of the Lord and of His angels and before men . . . A sacrament is never without a preceding promise but it is joined to it as a sort of appendix, with the purpose of confirming and sealing the promise itself, and of making it more evident to us and in a sense ratifying it. By this means God provides first for our ignorance and dullness, then for our weakness ... as our faith is slight and feeble unless it be propped [up] on all sides and sustained by every means, it trembles, wavers, totters, and at last gives way.”

- John Calvin

“Sometimes it is necessary to reteach a thing its loveliness.”

- Galway Kinnell

Q: What is baptism?

A: Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

- *Westminster Shorter Catechism 94*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- How does these words from Jesus and this scene/interaction with disciples intersect with you today? Is there anything fresh? Does it resonate with or confuse you at all?
- What has been your experience with baptism? Have you experienced Jesus providing for your “ignorance and dullness, then for your weakness” through this sacrament?
- How does the Gospel of Jesus restore your loveliness? Is this even a category for you?