

Darkness to Light

Throughout history, God has used water to save people who would become His own. Noah and his family were saved from the wickedness of the world by the water of the Flood. God brought His people out of slavery in Egypt through the water of the Red Sea and later He brought them through the water of the Jordan River into the Promised Land. God's use of water to save people and form them into a community that lives for Him continues today.

1 Peter 2:9-10

- The Bible says we are in one of two places spiritually: either in the darkness or in light.
- What is our status before God while we are the darkness? And when we are in the light?
- What were the main roles of a priest? What does it mean to be holy?
- This study looks at how we move from darkness to light.

John 3:1-7

- What do you think it means to be born again through water and the Spirit?

Matthew 26:27-28 & 1 John 1:7

- What do these passages tell us about the link between the blood (= death) of Jesus and salvation?

Romans 6:3-8

- What happens at baptism?
- Do you see how this is in agreement with being born again?

Acts 2:36-41

- What is required for the forgiveness of sin and to receive the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think it is possible to be baptised into the life of Christ without repentance?

Colossians 2:11-14

- Do you think it's possible to be baptised into Christ without having faith in him? Why?
- Whose work and power is it that saves us through baptism (vs 12)?
- How does this stand against the argument that baptism is a work?

1 Peter 3:20-21

- What did the flood waters in Noah's day achieve?
- What is the similarity with baptism?
- Does this passage say that baptism is symbolic? What does it actually say is symbolic of what?

Acts 8:12 & 36-38; 9:17-19; 22:16

- What are the common elements we see in these passages of how people responded to the Gospel in the first century church?
- Do you think there is any reason why things should be different nowadays?

Reflection:

- *Is there any difference between being saved, being born again and going from darkness to light?*
- *Think of key events in your walk with God and plot these on a time chart from your date of birth to now.*
- *Can you say that there was a definite event when you were saved and born again into the life of Christ?*
- *Does that event line up with what the Bible says about salvation?*

FURTHER STUDY

Titus 3:4-6. By whose mercy are we saved? How does this salvation happen? What do you think "the washing of rebirth" refers to?

Galatians 3:26-27. How would you describe the connection between faith and baptism? How would you describe the connection between baptism and being clothed with Christ? (cf **Romans 6:3-8**)

Acts 18:24 –19:5. It wasn't enough that these men had been baptized previously - they apparently needed to be taught more before receiving a true baptism. What are some "baptisms" that people undergo nowadays that may not be true baptisms according to what you have learnt through this study?