



## LEADER PAGE | SERIES | Traditions | WEEK 6 of 7 | Sermon date: May 16, 2021

**Discipleship Phrase:** Tradition honors past, action honors present, God sees both.

**Big Idea for Series:** This is why we do what we do each week.

### **Abiding** (*grow as a disciple yourself*)

This week we dig into what baptism is and what it should mean to followers of Christ. John 15:4 shares Jesus' command to his disciples "abide in me, and I in you". What actions are you taking that draw you closer to God and to be more like Jesus? Your daily communion with Jesus requires a dependence on the Holy Spirit to walk out life in faith, read His word, pray, and be intentional in your behavior to be more Christ-like. As you reflect on baptism, what thing(s) do you need to leave behind as you participate in God's story? Pray for the Holy Spirit to change you from the inside out and to strengthen your will and desire for Him.

### **Leading** (*facilitate your group effectively*)

Question 2 & 3 this week reference a freedom or a need to be freed, from an "Egypt." Just so that you as the leader have a deeper sense of meaning as you lead through this week's discussion, we just wanted to provide some clarity. For the Israelites, in the Old Testament, Egypt was a place of captivity and harsh labor against their will. Here they were oppressed on multiple levels, denied religious freedoms and were not able to truly worship God the way they desired to. God heard their cries, He responded and brought them out from under the oppression they endured in Egypt. That said, the thrust of questions 2 & 3 is really inviting you and your group to share a time when God has brought you out of some incredibly trying situations that may have seemed dark and without hope. Quite possibly you or a group member could still be in an "Egypt" of your life right, it's ok to share that as well however, it will take some courage and vulnerability. Make sure you, as the leader and creating a safe environment where others feel free to share and go deep. Number 4 is regarding baptism. If anyone in your group has not been baptized and decides that they are ready for baptism, please reach out to us via [groups@southeastcc.org](mailto:groups@southeastcc.org) and we'll get with you regarding all the details to make the next step!

### **Shepherding** (*know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep*)

Spend some time this week praying about how best to engage your group in what could be a vulnerable discussion. When you think about times in your life where you've felt enslaved, unseen and/or unheard, how has it made you feel? Consider how difficult it may be for your group to share that type of hurt. It can be a tricky climb to partner with God to free yourself from an Egypt and delving into the how of that...is sacred territory; treat it as such. You may need to take the lead this week in sharing what personal "Egypt" God has freed you from and/or wish to be freed from. Be sure to follow up with your group members that took the brave step into sharing that piece of their story.

### **Church Announcements** (*be in the know & share with your group*)

- Early Childhood ministry needs volunteers for the 11:30 service. If you can serve, please reach out to Christine Hoer at [Christine.Hoer@southeastcc.org](mailto:Christine.Hoer@southeastcc.org) to get on the schedule!

**REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."**

# LifeGroups

## at Southeast

**SERIES | Traditions | TOPIC: Baptism | WEEK 6 of 7 | Sermon date: May 16, 2021**

**Welcome/Introductions** (*creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone*)

**Open in Prayer** (*kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord*)

**Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows** (*choose one that is best for your group this week*)

**Weekly Vision Checklist** (*See Flipbook re: announcements, the “why”, goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching*)

**Ask a Hook Question** (*a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction*)

What’s the funniest/hardest life transition you’ve experienced?

**Recap the Message** (*ask a couple people to share what stood out to them in this week’s message*)

**Scriptures References** (*Read scriptures **directly from the Bible**—it carries its own authority*)

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV), Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV), Romans 6: 3-5 (NIV)**

**Implications** (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Baptism is non-negotiable when we give our lives to Jesus.
2. Baptism is a participation in God’s story- from past to present, and on to the future.
3. When we get baptized, we leave one community and enter into another.
4. As Christians we are called to live up to our baptism.

**Discussion Questions** (*going beyond the surface*)

1. What was your understanding of baptism when and if you’ve been baptized? Has that changed since Sunday’s message? How so?
2. What Egypt have you been freed from?
3. What Egypt do you need to be freed from?
4. If you haven’t been baptized, what is holding you back from getting baptized? This is not a discussion question, please just think about this and journal about it throughout the week.

**Prayer Requests** (*record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.*)

**Closing Prayer** (*ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly*)