

Why are Christians baptized?



PRAY

My Lord and my God!

By your resurrection you overcame death. Through baptism you built a bridge over death for us as well. Our feet already stand upon this bridge, which is leading us to a life that never ends. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud. Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#YOUCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit."

194 What is Baptism?

Baptism is the way out of the kingdom of death into life, the gateway to the Church, and the beginning of a lasting communion with God. [1213–1216, 1276–1278]

Baptism is the foundational sacrament and the prerequisite for all other sacraments. It unites us with Jesus Christ, incorporates us into his redemptive death on the Cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, and causes us to rise with him to a life without end. Since Baptism is a covenant with God, the individual must say Yes to it. In the baptism of children, the parents confess the Faith on behalf of the children.

1. Why is baptism so important? What happens?
2. Why does baptism need people to give their "Yes", and what does it mean if parents are doing this as substitutes for their children?
3. Why should we renew the baptismal vow?
4. How could you set an example in your life as a baptized Christian?

Pope Francis calls baptism the "identity card" of a Christian and suggests that we keep in mind our baptism date, in order to celebrate it privately every year.

Ask your parents or the persons who had you baptized why and when they did so. You can share the answer with the group at your next meeting.

Do you accept this challenge?

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