



**WEEK OF April 8 – April 14 / GROUP TIME GUIDE**

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aide for you to **experience Christ together.**

**Prayer:** Begin your time in group together by inviting God to be with you. Ask Him to change you as you seek Him and study His Word together. Ask him to use everyone in the group to encourage, challenge, and teach one another.

**Bible Study:** We understand that most of you know what baptism is, but we think it's important to be reminded as well as teach those who don't know much about baptism about what baptism truly means.

1. This week we followed a powerful weekend of Easter services with a celebration of life-change! Pastor Vance took this week to preach on what baptism was. Out of Acts 2:41, we learned three symbols that baptism represents. The first being, "Baptism is the **FIRST STEP** of obedience as a follower of Jesus."
  - a. **Why do we believe baptism is the first step of a follower of Jesus?**
  - b. **Where do we see this in Acts 2:41?**
2. Secondly, Pastor Vance taught, "Baptism is a **PUBLIC CONFESSIO**n of devotion Jesus." From this we learned that people weren't only baptized into a relationship with Jesus, but also that they were surrendering their lives to him!
  - a. **What illustration did Pastor Vance use to demonstrate this truth? (wedding ring)**
  - b. **How does this illustration show us the dynamic of relationships and devotion?**
3. Thirdly, he shared with us, "Baptism is a **PERSONAL EMBRACING** of the family of Jesus." Out of this point, we learned that those who were saved in Acts 2:41, were *added* to the family of God.
  - a. **What two statements were being made when people were being baptized?**
  - b. **Why is it important that we understand that we not only baptize into a relationship and devotion to Jesus – but also into the family of Jesus?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught that there were two groups of people that should not be baptized.
  - a. **What groups of people should not be baptized?**
  - b. **If you are not in one of those groups of people, what should your next step be?**

**Practical Application:** If anyone in your group missed this weekend, or realized they need to be baptized, they can sign up to be baptized at our next baptism weekend, May 20<sup>th</sup>!