



LOVE YOUR LEGACY · MINI EDITION NO. 2

Baptism

Buried and Raised With Him

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

ROMANS 6:4, NIV

PREPARED BY

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An opening prayer

Father, thank You for the water, and for the One who went into it ahead of me. As I read these pages, make me ready, in heart and in understanding, to say out loud what You have already done inside me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



1. Before the Water

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

You have said yes to Jesus. Now He invites you to say it in the water, in front of the people who will walk beside you. Do not let the word baptism feel big or strange. It is a picture, a promise, and a celebration, all poured into one brief, beautiful moment. This little book walks toward it slowly, one section at a time.

THE TEACHING

Baptism is a picture you step into. When you are baptized, you are lowered under the water and lifted back up, and the whole thing tells the story of what Jesus did for you. Going under the water pictures His death and your old life being buried. Coming up out of the water pictures His resurrection and your new life beginning.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4, KJV)

Baptism is also a public declaration. It is you standing before witnesses and saying, I belong to Jesus now. Jesus Himself asked for it: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:19, KJV)

The first Christians did it as soon as they believed. When Peter preached and the people asked what to do, he told them: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in

the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38, KJV)

Baptism does not save you. The water cannot wash a heart. Only Jesus does that, and He already did it. Baptism is the outside picture of the inside change.

It is not a membership card, and it is not the finish line. It is the starting line, marked in water.

Because Jesus asked for it. Because the first Christians did it. Because some moments deserve to be marked. One day you will look back at your baptism and remember it the way you remember a wedding day. It was the day you said it out loud, in front of everyone, that you were His.

SIT WITH THIS

When you picture your baptism day, what do you feel first? If it helps, start here: "Lord, when I picture the water, I feel..."

Is there anything about baptism that still feels unclear or a little frightening? Name it here. Every question you carry into the next sections is a good one.



2. Buried & Raised — a devotional

Read Romans 6:4 slowly.

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4, NIV)

Buried with Him. Raised with Him. Paul is not describing a ceremony. He is describing a funeral and a birthday sharing the same water.

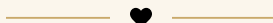
Picture an old coat, worn through, heavy with the weather of the life you used to live. The shame in its pockets. The old name stitched inside it. In baptism, God does not ask you to patch that coat one more time. He buries it. Down it goes under the water, out of sight, done. What comes up is not the coat cleaned up. What comes up is you, new, breathing, blinking in the light like someone who has just been born and cannot stop smiling about it.

That is why believers come up out of the water laughing and crying at the same time. Something true has been told in public, in the oldest language there is. I died. I live. He did both.

Sit with the two halves of the verse before you move on. Buried: what, exactly, is going under? Raised: who, exactly, is coming up?

WRITE IT DOWN

Name one thing from the old life that you are burying, in plain words. Then name one thing about the new life that you are rising to. Leave space between the two. The water goes there.



3. Open Your Bible

Three stories, read slowly, over a few days if you like. Keep a pen in hand. There is no test at the end, only a clearer picture of the water waiting for you.

JESUS IN THE WATER — MATTHEW 3:13-17

Before Jesus preached a sermon or healed anyone, He walked into the Jordan River and asked His cousin John to baptize Him. John protested. Jesus answered that it was right, to fulfil all righteousness. Read the whole passage, and linger here:

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17, NIV)

Reflect: Why do you think Jesus, who had no sin to bury, went into the water anyway? What does the Father's voice tell you about how heaven feels at a baptism? When you come up out of the water, whose voice will you be listening for?

THE MAN WHO COULD NOT WAIT — ACTS 8:26-39

An Ethiopian official is travelling home, reading Isaiah in his chariot, not understanding a word of it. Philip runs alongside, explains the good news about Jesus, and the man looks at the roadside and asks one of the most eager questions in the Bible: "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" (Acts 8:36, NIV)

Reflect: What can stand in the way? Make an honest list of your own answers. Then ask which of them are real, and which are only nerves

wearing a costume. Notice, too, that the man went on his way rejoicing. That is what the other side of the water feels like.

BURIED AND RAISED — ROMANS 6:1-11

Paul's full teaching, the one this little book is built on. Read all eleven verses slowly. Here is the verse to underline:

"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:11, NIV)

Reflect: Count yourselves. It is an accounting word, a settle-the-books word. What accounts from the old life does this verse invite you to close for good? What does alive to God look like on an ordinary Tuesday?



4. Pause & Reflect

Three questions, the heart of this book. Take them slowly, with tea, over more than one sitting if you need to.

What has Jesus rescued me from? Start small and honest if the big answer feels far away. "Lord, You rescued me from..." and let the sentence finish itself.

What does following Him mean to me now? Not forever, not in theory. Now, in this season, with this life. Start here if it helps: "Following You now looks like..."

Why do I want to be baptized? Write your real reason, not the reason you think you should have. He already knows it, and He is not grading it. Start here: "I want to be baptized because..."



5. My Story

Before the water, there is a story. Yours. Churches often invite the person being baptized to say a few words, and even if yours does not, this page is worth writing. In No. 1 of this series you learned the shape of it: where you were, how you met Him, what has changed.

Write yours here, in pencil if you like. Keep it short enough to say out loud in two minutes, and honest enough that the people who know you best would nod along.

Where I was before Jesus:

How I met Him:

What has changed since:



6. Preparing My Heart

In the days before your baptism, keep things simple and close. Read section 3 again. Pray the opening prayer of this book each morning. Tell the people you love when and where, and let them come and witness it. Practical peace helps a heart stay soft, so here, word for word from this ministry's first booklet, is what to expect on the day:

Every church does it a little differently, but the heart of it is always the same. Here is what usually happens.

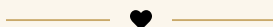
You will wear something simple and comfortable, clothes that can get wet. Bring a towel and a change of clothes. You will step into the water, a baptistry or a pool or a lake or even the ocean. The person baptizing you will ask you about your faith, something simple like whether you believe Jesus is Lord.

Then you will lean back, and they will lower you under the water and lift you right back up. It is quick. It is beautiful. People will cheer. Some will cry happy tears.

If you are nervous about the water, tell the person baptizing you. That is ordinary. They have helped many nervous people before you, and they will take good care of you.

LET'S PRAY

Lord, here is my heart, a few days or a few hours from the water. Quiet every fear that does not come from You. Let me walk into that water the way Jesus walked into the Jordan, trusting His Father completely. In Jesus' name, Amen.



7. My Baptism Day

Fill this page in while the day is still fresh, and keep this little book somewhere safe. Years from now, this may be the most precious page you own. Leave a space on the facing page for a photograph, the wetter and happier, the better.

The day I was baptized:

The place:

The person who baptized me:

The Scripture spoken over me:

Who was there to witness it:

What I remember most:

What I want to never forget about how God met me:



8. After the Water

You will come home from your baptism with wet hair, a full heart, and, in the days that follow, an entirely ordinary life still waiting for you. The dishes will still be in the sink. This is normal, and it is not a letdown. The new life was never meant to feel like a permanent mountaintop. It is a road, walked daily, in the company of the One who raised you.

Three small things for the first week. Tell your story to one person who was not there, while it is fresh. Go back to church the next Sunday and let your people see you, because your baptism encouraged them more than you know. When the old life knocks, and it will knock, answer it with Romans 6:11 in your own voice: I am dead to that. I am alive to God.

From here, this series walks on with you. No. 3, Prayer, takes seven unhurried days to teach you the conversation that will carry the rest of your life. The water was the doorway. Now comes the walking.

LET'S PRAY

Father, thank You for the water, and for everything it said about me that I could never have said myself. I am buried with Christ. I am raised with Christ. Teach me to live like it, one ordinary, beloved day at a time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture is our foundation. Love is our expression. Legacy is what we leave behind.

With love, Tay and the Love Your Legacy team

The Foundations

Series



Five little books that disciple people, written to be
read slowly, written in, and kept.

No. 1 · Following Jesus

No. 2 · Baptism · you are here

No. 3 · Prayer

No. 4 · Fasting

No. 5 · Held by Hope

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