Baptism Sunday

Baptism Sunday beautifully reminds us that Jesus not only calls us to follow Him, but He also meets us in our brokenness, extends His mercy, and invites us into a transformed life. Baptism is one of the clearest public declarations that we belong to Him and are choosing to walk in obedience after His example.

Worship Suggestion:

- God I'm Just Grateful – *Chandler Moore & Elevation Worship*

Check-in Question:

Take a few minutes for everyone to share:

- Where have you seen God at work recently?

Introduction:

This Sunday we celebrated people publicly declaring their faith through baptism. Jesus Himself chose to be baptised before beginning His public ministry, setting an example for all who would follow Him. He went first.

Why Baptism Matters
Baptism is much more than a church tradition.

It is an act of obedience
Jesus was baptised and invites His followers to do the same. Baptism is not about having everything figured out or getting our lives perfect first. It is a response to God's grace.

It is a public witness
Baptism tells the world that we belong to Jesus. It is an outward declaration of an inward transformation. It points people to what Jesus has done, not what we have done.

It gives us an opportunity to share our story
Every believer carries a testimony of God's grace. Our stories may look different, but each one reveals God's faithfulness and becomes a witness to others.

Key Thought: *"The very thing God has brought you through can become the story He uses to help someone else find hope."*

Read Together

Matthew 3:13-17 | Jesus' baptism.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Jesus went first. What does His example of baptism teach us about obedience and following God?**
   Consider:
   - Why do you think people sometimes delay baptism?
   - What fears or misconceptions often hold people back?
   - How does Jesus' example challenge those hesitations?

2. **How comfortable are you with sharing your story of what Jesus has done in your life?**
   Discuss:
   - What makes sharing your testimony difficult?
   - Why are personal stories often powerful tools for encouraging others?
   - How could God use your story this week?

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Group Application:
Take a few minutes to write down a simple version of your testimony using three parts:

1. What life was like before Jesus (or before God intervened).
2. What Jesus did.
3. How your life is different today.

This could be your salvation story. Alternatively, it could be a current story of the difference God makes in your life.

Ask God to show you one person He may be inviting you to encourage, pray for, or share your story with this week.

Practical Challenge for the Week:

Choose one:

- Share a part of your faith story with someone this week.
- Invite someone to church, or invite them for coffee to talk about faith.
- If you have not yet been baptised, spend time praying about taking that next step.
- Ask God each morning, "What step of obedience are You inviting me to take today?"

Prayer Pointers

Spend time praying for one another around these areas:

1. **Courage to Obey**
   Pray for hearts that respond quickly when God prompts us to take a next step.
2. **Freedom and Healing**
   Pray for those carrying disappointments, wounds, addictions, fears, or burdens that have kept them feeling stuck.
3. **A Fresh Work of the Holy Spirit**
   Pray that every group member would experience deeper intimacy with God and greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.
4. **Boldness to Share Our Stories**
   Pray that God would open opportunities to share our testimony and that our lives would point others to Jesus.
5. **Those Yet to Be Baptised**
   Pray for anyone considering baptism, that they would have clarity, confidence, and courage to publicly declare their faith.

Closing Scripture: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Final Thought: Jesus went first, and His invitation remains the same today: trust Him, follow Him, and allow His mercy and grace to transform your story into a testimony that points others to Him.