



Newness of Life



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and record your partner's thoughts in the space provided. Then return to small group and share your friend's highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

and highlight the theme verse in your Bible

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:3-4



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. What do you see in the cover photo, cartoon and painting by Dr. He Qi on the back page?
2. Where are you in these works of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might they relate to your highs and lows?

CATECHISM ENCOUNTER

Scan Luther's explanation of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. What are the benefits of Baptism according to Luther?

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. How is sin like mud? How is sin like quicksand?
2. There are seven different meanings for the word "baptize" in Greek (the New Testament language). They include to dip, to submerge, to wash and to sprinkle. Can any or all of these be used for a baptism? Why or why not?
3. A friend says, "If you aren't totally immersed under water, you aren't really baptized." How do you answer?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

My baptism was a "Wash and Wear" event.

Bumper Sticker

Baptism is not a bath, but a funeral bier. If it were a bath, you would need it again and again. But since it is a death and new life, it is a once for all picture of the transformation that has taken place.

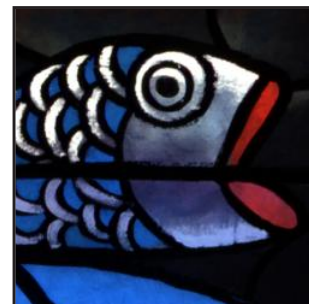
Fredrick Buechner

Baptism saves you like a life preserver saves you. It's there. Cling to it.

Rich Melheim

After baptism, original sin is like a wound which has begun to heal. It is really a wound, yet it is becoming better and is constantly in the process of healing.

Martin Luther



Write a definition...

BAPTISM

BELIEVER BAPTISM

IMMERSION

NEW LIFE

REPENTANCE



Jonah and the Whale by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY
for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS
one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

**REMEMBER
1 THING**

By the water and power of God's Word, you are a new creation.

