

GOING PUBLIC

*A Study for eGroups
With Ps Matt Gregory and Ps Esther Elliott*



ENGAGE: Before beginning this study, set a relaxed atmosphere by making time for everyone to talk, share food and connect socially.

WATCH: Watch the session of Going Public (Note: this is a single session study)

DISCUSS: Using the questions over the page, spend time discussing what you have just watched, read out each question and allow time for people to share their thoughts and ideas.

DISCUSS

As you've seen, this session has been all about water baptism.

Question: What did you think about this study? Did you learn anything new?

Water baptism is a public declaration of the relationship that you have with Jesus. It is a symbolic act, telling others that you have let go of your old life and have entered into a new life with Christ.

Question: Why do you think Jesus asks us to publicly declare that we are his followers or, as Ps Matt suggested, tell others that we are 'in a relationship'?

Read Colossians 2:12-13. We "bury" our old lives with Christ when we go under the water, and are "raised to new life" when we come up out of the water. Being baptised is an acknowledgement of the significant transformation that Jesus has done in our lives.

Question: Do you identify with this scripture? Can you identify things that have been buried and things that have come alive in your life since you were saved?

Many people think there is a right time and a wrong time to get baptised. In the book of Acts, the instant response of people after they got saved was to get water baptised. Ps Esther said, "If we're always waiting for the right conditions, we'll always be waiting."

Question: What are some of the things that cause people to put off getting baptised? Do you think there is a 'right time' to be baptised?

Some people feel different when they get baptised, and others don't. It's important to remember that it's a decision of faith more than a feeling.

Discuss: Ask if anyone in your eGroup has been baptised, and get them to share about their experience of baptism and how they felt. What do you remember most about your baptism?

Just because someone has been baptised, it doesn't mean God will take away all of their struggles. Jesus faced a struggle straight after his baptism when he was led into the wilderness and tempted by the devil.

Discuss: For those who have been baptised, did you have any experiences after baptism that surprised you? What would you say to someone thinking of being baptised?

ACTIVATE: If there is anyone in your eGroup who has not yet been baptised, encourage them to take this significant step as a Christian. They can sign up for baptism at the Red Tent after any service on Sunday.

PRAY: Pray for each other. You might like to pray for courage and faith for those who are considering baptism, or that everyone would continue to live their life of following Jesus 'publicly' in a way that others will be able to see.

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