

Life Group Discussion Guide

Buried to Rise, Filled to Overflow

Foundations Series | Doctrine of Baptisms

Purpose of the Session

- Understand baptism as a *principle of transformation*, not just a ceremony
- Explore water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Create space for reflection, response, and prayer

1. Welcome

Starter Question (Choose one):

- What's something in life that only made sense *after* you went through it?
- Have you ever gone through an experience that truly changed you — not just improved you?

(Leader note: Set a safe, non-pressured environment. No one needs to share deeply yet.)

2. Scripture Foundation

Read aloud together:

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ... the doctrine of baptisms...”

— Hebrews 6:1–2

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think baptism is listed as a *foundation*, not an optional extra?
2. What do you think most Christians misunderstand about baptism?

3. Baptism: More Than Water

Key Teaching Recap (Leader summarises):

- “Baptism” means *complete immersion*
- Hebrews speaks of **baptisms (plural)**
- Baptism is a *principle of surrender*, not just a moment

The Three Stages of Baptism:

- **Identify** – recognising what God wants to change
- **Transition** – fully submitting to the process
- **New Position** – emerging transformed

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these three stages do people find the hardest? Why?
2. Can you think of a time when God invited you into a “process,” but it involved discomfort?

4. Water Baptism – Buried With Christ

Read together:

Romans 6:3–4
2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Romans 6, what does going under the water represent spiritually?
2. Why do you think obedience (not feelings) is so important in water baptism?
3. For those who are baptised:
 - What changed after your baptism — spiritually, emotionally, or practically?
4. For those who are not baptised:

- What questions or hesitations do you still have?

(Leader note: No pressure. Curiosity is welcome.)

5. Baptism of the Holy Spirit – Filled With Power

Read together:

Acts 1:8

Joel 2:28–29

Teaching Emphasis:

- The Holy Spirit is not just **in us**, but comes **upon us**
- The purpose is **power to be witnesses**, not spiritual status
- The Spirit is given to *all* God's people

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Bible describe the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
2. Why do you think people often focus on *gifts* instead of *purpose*?
3. What does it mean to rely on the Spirit instead of your own strength?

6. Gifts and Love

Read together:

1 Corinthians 12:7

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul place the love chapter right in the middle of teaching on gifts?

2. What happens when spiritual power is exercised *without love*?
3. How can the Holy Spirit help us love people more practically this week?

7. Personal Reflection

Give everyone a moment of quiet.

Reflection Prompts (silent or written):

- Is there an area of my life God is asking me to fully “go under” in?
- Am I living more from God’s power — or my own strength?
- Have I unplugged from the world’s “power source” and stayed connected to the Spirit?

(Optional sharing in pairs or small groups.)

8. Prayer & Ministry Time

Leader Guidance:

- Pray for:
 - Those wanting to be baptised in water
 - Fresh filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Renewed hunger and surrender

Prayer Prompts:

- “Holy Spirit, fill me again.”
- “Jesus, I surrender every area — not halfway, but fully.”
- “Use my life to love a broken world.”

(If appropriate, leaders may gently lay hands on people who request prayer.)

9. Closing Encouragement

Remind the group:

- Baptism is an *ongoing principle*, not a once-off event
- God transforms through surrender
- We are filled **so others may encounter His love**

End with:

“You came in as one person — you can walk out a completely different one.”