


Week Beginning: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Worship Series: #1 in series 

living sharing growing

## Theme Verse

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

## Remember This Week

God delights in you. At your baptism he opened up the heavens to pour his grace on you, drench you with his love, flood your life with forgiveness and infuse your life with his Spirit. Day by day as your life is immersed in his Spirit, it grows stronger and stronger, bringing joy and delight to others as they taste the life of Christ in you.



**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Psalm 23

Dear Heavenly Father, , our cups overflow with your grace and love shown to us in Jesus Christ. You have brought us into your family and made us your children by the waters of Baptism. You give us everything we need so that we may dwell in your house forever. Be with us now as we try to grasp the depth of your love for our lives and how you infuse our lives with your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



1. *Highs and Lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What is your favourite flavour of tea or which flavours can't you stand?*
4. *What kind of emotional responses does drinking tea create in you?*
5. *If you were a type of tea, describe the flavour people could expect to taste.*

The art of tea infusion has experienced a great resurgence over recent years. Infusion is designed to bring out the best of the flavours of the herb or tea that is being infused; flavours which can change depending on the solution and temperature that the tea is infused in. There have even been tea societies formed (just check out the T2 website) designed to create the ultimate tea communities! In this new year, God wants to give you a Life Infusion, one that will draw out the very best flavours in your life. It begins with being infused with the Spirit.

Read Matthew 3:13-17



6. *You may have heard the story of Jesus' baptism many times but if you think about why we baptise people still today, why do you think Jesus wanted/needed to get baptised?*
7. *What do you think "...do this to fulfil all righteousness" means?*
8. *Jesus' whole life was to fulfil all righteousness. Read John 3:16-17 to learn of God's will for Jesus' life and also God's will for our life. How does baptism have a role to play in God's will for our lives?*



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9. *In Jesus' baptism, who is doing the amazing work? John the Baptist because he's the one baptising? Jesus because he came to be baptised? Or God because of his part to play? What does this teach us about our own baptisms?*
10. *When Jesus comes up out of the water, what was the purpose of the Spirit of God descending on him? Do you think Jesus was without the Holy Spirit all these years and now receives the Spirit? If the Spirit was already with him then for whose benefit was this sign?*
11. *God spoke to Jesus in an audible way. Do you think Jesus needed to hear these words as Jesus was one with the father (John 1:18 & 10:30)? For whose benefit does God speak in such an audible way?*

From all of this you could say that Jesus' baptism was infused with God's will, the Holy Spirit and God's heartfelt approval and acceptance of Jesus as his Son. Jesus from the beginning of time was with the Father and Spirit (John 1:1-4). He didn't need these things and so we can gather that Jesus' baptism is purely done to show us the power and purpose of baptism.

13. *How does Jesus' baptism teach us what God does for us in our Baptism?*
14. *Which aspect do you find the most comforting for your life?*
15. *How does the idea of being infused with God's Spirit give you courage in your life?*

Baptism still continues to be an important part of the Christian Life. Jesus commanded us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19). Christ established baptism as a means in which the forgiveness of sin he won on the cross is delivered and bestowed on us. In faith we take God at his word with the gifts bestowed on us in our baptism. As surely as the water was poured on our heads and Christ's words spoken, so too do we believe that God works in our baptism to infuse us with his gift of the Holy Spirit to work in us forgiveness, faith and salvation.

Read John 3:5-6, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 & Galatians 3:26-29 & 4:6-7,

16. *What do each of these texts teach you of the importance of baptism?*
17. *What has been infused into your life because of your baptism?*
18. *Our faith does not create baptism, nor does it make it effective. In faith, we can only merely receive this gift of grace for our lives. How does this bring comfort to your life?*

Many things can infuse into our life to give it flavour and meaning, yet none of them will have eternal consequences. Only God's infusion by the Holy Spirit into our lives can have a flavour that will last into eternity.



20. *How can you trust that God has infused his Spirit into your very being and hold onto that hope during your week?*
21. *What things do you infuse into your life that muddy up the pure hope that has been infused into you in your baptism?*
22. *Where do you need to trust the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this week?*
23. *Is there someone you've seen baptised who has fallen away whom you can encourage this week?*

- \* Pray for all Christians that they would be daily infused by the Holy Spirit and let His life flow from their lives.
- \* Pray for those who are looking for identity in all the wrong places that they may find a security and identity in the waters of baptism as dearly loved children of God.
- \* Pray for those who are drained already in this New Year with worry, stress or the hardship of life, that God would pour out his grace on them richly.
- \* Pray for those who have forgotten the amazing gift of life giving grace that's been poured out on them in their baptism.
- \* Pray for each member of your Life Group and those you know are in need.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

*Name, may God's calling for you bring you joy. Amen.*

