



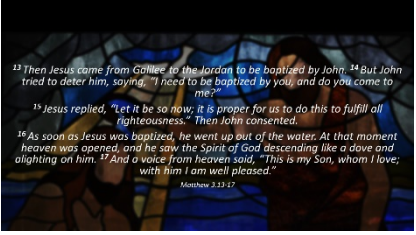
Immerse

Being immersed in the work of God – Matthew 3.13-17

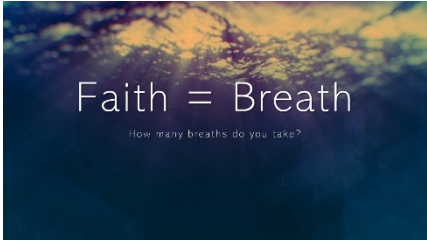
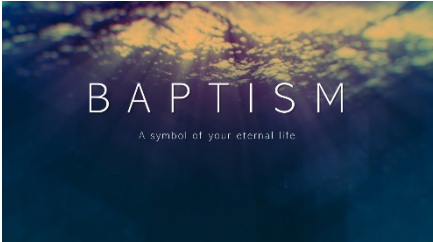
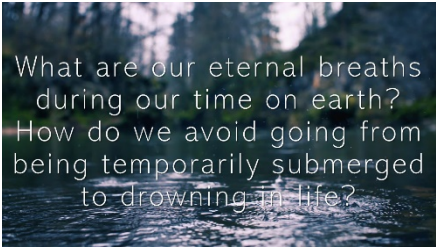
Themes: Life, water, baptism, faith

Summary: This devotional discussion guide using the symbolism of baptism as a metaphor for eternal life. It is a discussion which seeks to get young people thinking about what they are doing in their faith life to sustain their earthly life and purpose. This resource is based off of a resource used at the Sinoti Samoa Tupulaga Camp, IMMERSE, which was held on Queens Birthday weekend 2021. Some content from that workshop has been altered to be used in a youth group setting.

How to use: This resource is merely a guide. If you wish to use in its delivered form entirely, feel free to do so. If you wish to add, omit or edit anything, feel free to do so. It is intended to be a guide and provide some assistance in prep time for busy youth ministry leaders. For more info and resources like this, please visit www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth

SLIDE	Notes
	<p>1. Blank Slide Take time for introductions, welcome, prayers etc.</p>
	<p>2. Baptism Activity: Split members into groups or pairs and ask them to brainstorm everything that they know about Baptism. Encourage members to share about their own baptisms (if they have been or remember!) and things that happen in baptism/what do they symbolise etc. You might want to touch on some distinctives of the Methodist understanding of Baptism: namely confirmation and baptism of children.</p>
	<p>3-4. Focus Reading – Matt.3.13-17 Take the time to read through the reading, Matt.3.13-17, individually or as a group. You may want to do some background reading on the context leading up to this event in Matthew if you wish. Ask for general feedback and thoughts from group members.</p>

About this resource: This resource is developed from TCYF Ministries under Mission Resourcing, Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. It is available for use in any church, and may be freely edited and contextualized to any church setting, however please credit *Mission Resourcing, MCNZ* when doing so. Please note also that this resource does not necessarily reflect the views of the Methodist Church of New Zealand as an institution. www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth

	<p>5. Faith = Breath</p> <p>Reflective activity – <i>Invite group to close their eyes as you recite this scenario.</i></p> <p><i>Imagine your life is lived underwater. You still require air in order to survive. The only way you can take a breath is through doing something that relates to your faith. A prayer, a conversation with God, an act of love or service, a devotion, a moment of worship. Each act gives you a breath. In the past week, how many breaths have you taken? Open your eyes.</i></p> <p>Invite any feedback or sharing from group.</p>
	<p>6. Baptism – A symbol of your eternal life</p> <p>Many churches today practice full immersion baptism. This, like Jesus was baptized in Matthew, is the act of being fully immersed in the water for a moment before rising again. The image of full immersion baptism can paint a picture for our <i>eternal life</i> also, broken down in three steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before baptism – this may represent our existence before being born. <i>See Psalm 139.13-17</i> 2. Under the water – this may represent our time on earth. Underwater, somewhere we can be, but not for long and not comfortably. In the scale of time for our lives, life on earth is short. Yet through this whole time, God holds onto us as we plunge into the world. 3. When we rise – this may represent our lives after our time on earth is done. As the voice from heaven declared to Jesus, our hope is to be recognized as a child of God, of whom He is well pleased.
	<p>7. What are our 'Breaths'</p> <p>With that in mind, discuss these questions - what are our <i>eternal breaths</i> during our time on earth? How do we avoid going from being temporarily submerged to drowning in life?</p> <p>You might want to play a reflective song while the group silently reflects, before closing in prayer.</p>

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