

October 11, 2026

SERMON: Giving Thanks for New Life in Christ
SPEAKER: Pastor Steve
CORE SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:19

WATCH SERMON | SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

This Thanksgiving weekend, Pastor Steve led us to see baptism as a vivid act of gratitude, celebrating God's rescue and new life in Jesus Christ. The message highlighted baptism as a picture of God's grace—reminding us we are saved not by our own effort, but by God's gift. Baptism was also described as participation in Jesus' death and resurrection, illustrating how we die to our old selves and rise to new life. Pastor Steve emphasized that baptism declares our new identity: as beloved children of God, members of God's family, and agents of His mission in the world. The congregation was invited to respond with renewed thankfulness—living out their baptized identity in community, holiness, and service.

SHARE

Share about your own baptism, or witnessing someone else's baptism? Was there anything especially meaningful or memorable about it?

READ

Let's read **Matthew 28:19** together.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. Looking at Matthew 28:19, what does it mean that baptism is part of the Great Commission? How does this shape our understanding of making disciples?

3. Pastor Steve connected baptism to stories of God's rescue in the Old Testament—Noah, the Red Sea, the Jordan River, Jonah. How do these stories deepen your understanding of what baptism symbolizes?

4. Read Romans 6:4. What does it mean to be “buried with [Christ] through baptism into death”? How does this passage help us think about both the theology and experience of baptism?

5. The sermon described baptism as a declaration that our identity is found in being God’s beloved children (see 1 John 3:1). How does this truth confront or encourage you in places you might look for worth or identity elsewhere?

6. Pastor Steve said, “God has not simply rescued you from something. He has rescued you for something.” What does it look like for you to live as an agent of God’s mission in your everyday life?

7. Can you recall a story or moment from the sermon—perhaps about the candidates or an illustration—that made the message of baptism more personal for you?

NEXT STEPS

- Take time this week to thank God specifically for your new life in Christ. Consider writing a short prayer or note of gratitude.
- If you have not been baptized and are interested, talk to a pastor or group leader about what this next step could mean for you.
- Reflect on how you are living out your identity as part of God’s family. Is there a practical way you can serve or encourage someone in your church this week?

PRAY

- Spend time thanking God for His rescuing grace and the new life we receive in Jesus.
- Pray for those recently baptized, that they would be strengthened in their faith and sense of belonging in God’s family.
- Ask God to help each of us live out our identity and mission as His beloved children and agents of His love in the world.

CONNECT

Be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities to grow and serve together—check **The Hub** for workshops, events, and ways your group can come alongside others in the church community.

CLOSING

Thank you for sharing and wrestling with God’s Word together. May we go from here renewed in gratitude and ready to live out our baptismal calling as a family of faith.