



Plant • Grow • Harvest | Home Group Discussion Guide

“Sacred Moments: Baptism” Acts 8:33-39

September 22, 2019 – Susan Kent

Gather

- Were you or someone you know affected by TS Imelda this week? Give thanks to God for anywhere you saw His protection, provision, or presence.

Plant

- We had the opportunity to jump back into our topic of Sacred Moments that we have visited a couple of times this year with Communion and confirmation. Was there anything you learned in this message that you didn't know before about baptism?
- Read **Matthew 3:17**. What was the declaration that God made over Jesus? What are some words/declarations people have made over you in your life? (might be words of affirmation, might be names of endearment) How did that make you feel?
- What are words that you think God would declare over you? Why did you choose those words?

Grow

- Through the act of baptism we say that the person is marked by the Holy Spirit, initiated into the Body of Christ (church), and incorporated into God's mighty act of salvation. In your own words, what do those aspects of baptism mean and why are they important in your own life?
- Read **Acts 8:30-35**. Now focusing especially on verse 35, what specifically do you think Philip told the Ethiopian official? Why do you think the Ethiopian wanted to get baptized afterwards?
- Since infants cannot declare their own faith, in your own words how would you explain infant baptism as an authentic representation of how God works in our lives toward salvation?

Harvest

- Contemporary United Methodists have been intentional about reclaiming the significance of the Baptismal Covenant as a declaration of our faith and celebrating the divine grace of God. How do you see baptism being important in the life of our church or in your own life?
- If you had the chance to either be baptized for the first time or reaffirm your baptism through anointing with oil, would you? Why or why not?

Prayers

- Share prayer requests within your group. Remember to pray for anyone affected by the tropical storm.