**WATER BAPTISM MESSAGE**

**NOTE:** This is a 2-page document

**The Big Idea:**

The most important lifetime decision a person will make is to be baptised in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And the most important daily decision a person will make is to identify himself or herself with the *truths* of water baptism.

**Three Key Truths about Water Baptism**

1. **Water baptism is a powerful act of obedience to Jesus**

Jesus sets the example for us to follow by being water baptised (Matt. 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22). Jesus also commands all who follow Him to be water baptised (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).

In the book of Acts, we find examples of people getting baptised almost immediately after believing in Jesus Christ. There was a sense of urgency and immediate obedience. (Acts 2:38-41; 8:26-38; 9:10-19; 10:44-48; 16:11-15; 16:25-34)

Ps. Paul shared his story about his experience in water baptism. He gave his life to Christ on the 31st of March 1999 then subsequently got baptised 2 days later. He applied Augustine’s quote to his experience, “Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.” He did not fully understand the depth of the experience intellectually, but he believed in the Lord enough to trust and obey Him; much of the understanding of water baptism came later.

1. **Water baptism clothes us with the Lord Jesus Christ.**

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” – Gal. 3:27

We all wear clothes. Clothes symbolize our identity, our way of thinking, our personality, and our belief system. Water baptism causes us to put on or clothe ourselves with Christ. This is a powerful reality: in the natural realm, we are identified by the clothes we wear; in the spirit realm, because we are clothed with Christ we are identified with Him.

1. **Water baptism unites us with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

Romans 6 explains that our full immersion in water unites us with the death and burial of Christ, and our coming up out of the water symbolizes our oneness with the resurrection of Christ, so that we may live for Him.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Share your experience of water baptism. What was your life before Christ like? What made you take the step of faith and obedience to be water baptised?
2. What does water baptism mean to you today? How do you make a conscious, daily decision to align yourself with the truths of water baptism?

**COMMENTS:**

1. Make sure you spend some time reading through some of the passages in Acts and Romans 6 on water baptism.
2. Spend some time in the end praying for more water baptisms at church. Pray for unsaved loved ones and friends.