



17TH NOV
BIG CHURCH
3:30PM

Big Church – Baptism and the Good News of Jesus

Date: Sunday 17th November

Speakers: Andrew McNeil

Key Verses: Isaiah 53:4-6, Mark 16:15-16

Talk Summary:

- Why Baptism? Baptism follows belief in Jesus Christ. Baptism has been described as ‘an outward sign of an inward faith’.
- Why Get Baptised? Because Jesus commanded it and he modelled it. Mark 16:15-16 Matthew 3:13-17
- What it represents: In baptism we identify with Jesus death, burial and resurrection. The New Testament writer Paul sums up the Christian message by linking these together: “Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... He was raised on the third day...” I Corinthians 15:3,4.
- Why did Jesus die? Jesus died to bring us peace with God. *‘We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; Isaiah 53*
- The Bible says we have gone astray - we’ve gone our own way in life and not God’s way. We’ve missed the mark. We’ve not lived up to our own ideals, let alone God’s. The result is we are cut off from God.
- *And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.’ Isaiah 53*
- The New Testament does not concentrate on the physical agony of Jesus, or even on the pain of being deserted by his friends. It concentrates on the spiritual separation Jesus suffered as he was cut off from his Father. On the cross he was cut off from God, not because of what he’d done but because of what we’ve done. That’s why he cried out: ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’.
- Because Jesus was cut off from God we can be brought close to God. He experienced death so we can experience life. The cross leaves us free to have a relationship with God.
- Isaiah 53 says that “he took up our pain and bore our suffering”. We can experience betrayal or hurt at the hands of others or because of our own choices. The cross not only shows us that we can be forgiven, it shows us we can be made whole.
- What that means for us? The Bible calls the message of Jesus good news, not good advice. It centres on what Jesus has done. The work God requires of us is to believe in the one he sent (John 6:29) and follow him daily.

Resources

Some of the prophecies fulfilled in Jesus life:

<https://www.jesusteam.org/blog-and-stories/old-testament-prophecies.html>

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?