



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Be Equipped

Suggested Week of Use: May 11, 2025

Core Passage: 2 Peter 1:3-8,16-21

News Story Summary

While this year's recognized "Baptism Sunday" on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar was set for April 27, 2025, churches can experience the joy of baptisms in their congregations every Sunday. "Regardless of size, location, or budget, every church can celebrate the symbolism and significance of baptism," said Tim Dowdy, vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board. Dowdy encourages churches to fill their baptistry and "give the invitation. You might have someone who repents and believes in Jesus and is ready to be baptized that same day."

Dowdy noted that baptism gives church members a chance to celebrate with new believers and assure them that they have a loving support system. Congregations can rally behind new Christians and encourage them as they take this "first step of obedience." In terms of an individual's spiritual growth, baptism represents a foundational step in a believer's journey of spiritual transformation.

For more stories about "Baptism Sunday" across the Southern Baptist Convention, search "Baptist Press Baptism Sunday."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, compare baptism to planting a seed. Ask: *How does a planted seed represent moving from death to new life? How does baptism represent death to new life?* Share the information about "Baptism Sunday" and why baptism is so important. Emphasize that baptism is a fantastic opportunity for the church to support and encourage new believers. Ask: *Why is the support of other believers within the church an important part of spiritual growth and maturity?* Affirm that baptism is just the first step of obedience for believers. Explain that this session challenges Christ followers to keep moving forward in their spiritual lives. Encourage them to evaluate their own spiritual maturity as they consider how God has equipped them to become more like Himself.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: *Why is it necessary for believers to grow in spiritual maturity?* Allow volunteers to share things they do to nurture their own spiritual growth. Remind them of the baptism article and the things Tim Dowdy said. Encourage believers who have never been baptized to take that step of obedience. Challenge those who have been baptized to reflect on today's verses and to identify ways they can mature in their spiritual lives.