

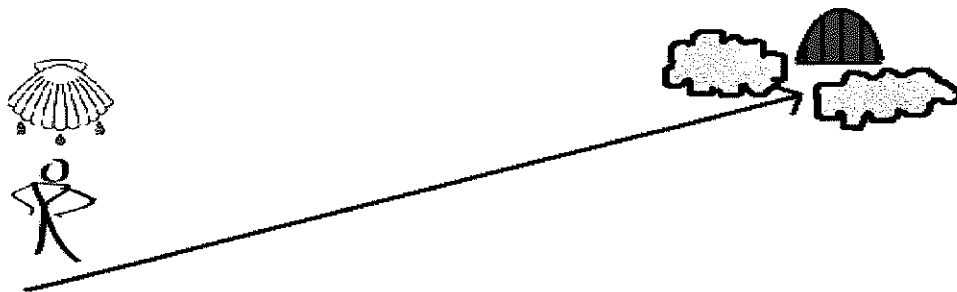
Discipleship 101
Learning to Take Christianity Seriously

Session #7—Baptism: Your New Identity

1. God does not want to be a part of our story.
2. Our stories will _____ (and they need to!). Idols, stories, FoMO, happy endings, lifestyle = _____. Read Romans 6:16-23 and Matthew 7:17-23.
3. So, what should God do with our stories? God must _____ our stories (literally kill them) so that we can be raised in His story.
4. We (typically) need a _____ in our stories before we look in repentance to what God is doing for us through His Son, and our stories are already in crisis (whether we like it or not). Romans 6:30-23.
5. To put it succinctly and concisely, whether we recognize it or not, our stories are dead and lead to death because they are utterly and totally sinful. *What God has done for us in Jesus is make our death and the death of our stories the revelation of the grace, mercy, and eternal life of His story.* Colossians 3:1-8; Romans 6:7-12; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.
6. Where does begin this work of killing and making alive? _____.
7. Before I describe baptism, how would you describe it? What is baptism? What occurs in baptism? We're going to let St. Paul help us with our description of baptism. Romans 6:3-6.
8. There are three similar words St. Paul uses to describe baptism, words that might seem a little bit out of place for us. What three words are they (v. 3, 4, and 6)? _____, _____, _____.

9. In baptism, whose death, burial, and crucifixion are we being joined to? _____: When Jesus is crucified, dies, and is buried, what else according to St. Paul is Jesus crucifying, killing, and burying (v. 6)? _____.
10. What this means is that Jesus came to crucify, kill, and bury sin. What does this look like? First, what is sin again? Next, why must Jesus die on the cross for us? Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 4:25.
11. As a result, God uses your Baptism as constant reminder of who you truly are.
12. So, when did Jesus deal with sin? _____ reconciliation.
_____ reconciliation.
13. You can't control sin (that's how badly you need Jesus). Romans 6:6-7. In verse 7, one who has died with Christ in Baptism is what?
14. We're going to take St. Paul at his word. Because of Baptism and because our sin has been crucified, killed, and buried with Jesus in Baptism, we're going to make this claim. Because of Baptism: SIN HAS NO _____ OVER YOU.
15. So, why is it that as soon as soon as we hear that sin has no control over us, we automatically think life's going to be perfect (by which we mean we get our happy endings)? The figure below gives us a pretty good idea.

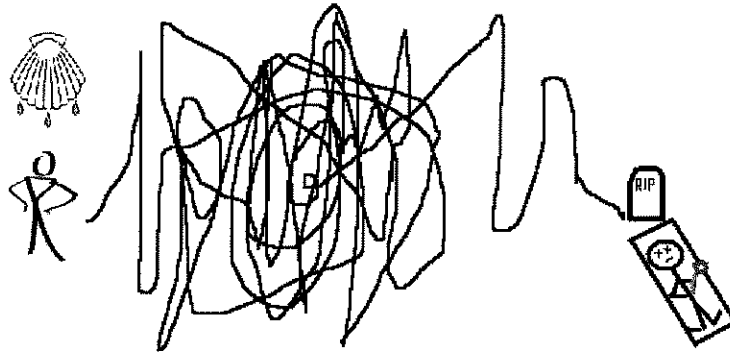
Figure 1:



16. This is the picture most people have of being a “good” Christian. It’s a picture of us moving towards some view of a happy ending. That’s just the way we think of ourselves with Christ as our leader—us no longer experiencing bad stuff (don’t ask me how we get around the cross!).

17. St. Paul realized this, so when it comes to Baptism, there’s another claim we have to make. Read Romans 7:15-21. Sin has no control over you, but—*at the same time*: YOU HAVE NO _____ OVER SIN.

Figure 2:



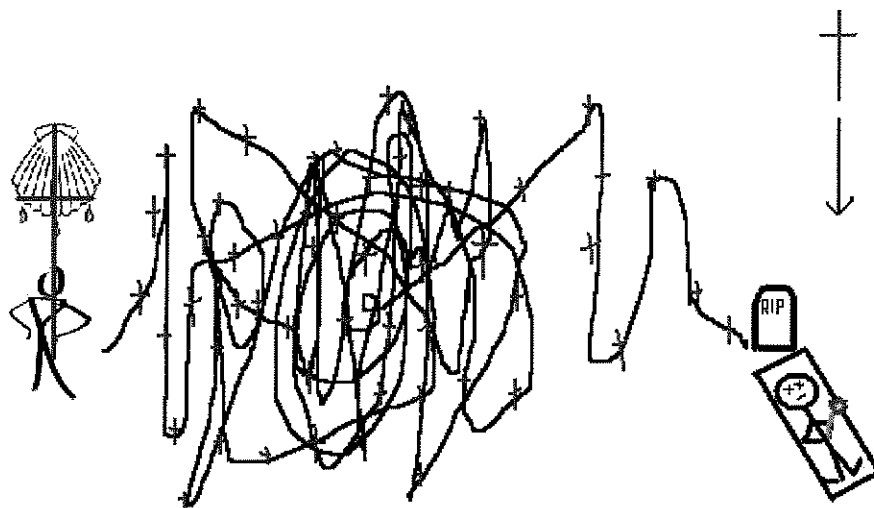
18. Welcome to the Christian life! We don’t like it, but the Christian life is a _____. A paradox is statement that seems self-contradictory but in reality, expresses a **truth**. The paradox of the Christian life is that we are “simultaneously _____ and _____.” We are both saint and sinner *at the same time*. The paradox of the Christian life keeps our eyes so focused on Jesus that it’s amazing.

19. I wasn’t completely honest about the Christian life in figure 2. There are three “Means of Grace”—three ways that God comes to us in Christ to crucify, kill, and bury our sin and raise us to new life. _____; _____; _____.

20. As Lutherans, there’s a reason why we have very visible and prominent Means of Grace that we proclaim without apology. It’s through these that God tells us and delivers to us something we are constantly at risk of

forgetting, and that is: even though you have no control over sin, sin still has no control over you.

Figure 3:



21. You are forgiven. You cannot evaluate your relationship to God, God's involvement in your life, or your future based on what your human wisdom tells you.
22. Field of Dreams analogy. Corporate and individually
23. Baptism—therefore—stops being a onetime deal. It becomes a _____.
24. Based on this, why might I be seriously concerned if someone wasn't coming to church regularly? Why might I even go so far as to say, "There's a good chance you might not even a Christian (even if you think you are!)"? Four reasons. 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
25. Fill in the blanks: "*What does such _____ with water signify?* Answer. It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by _____ contrition and repentance, be _____ and _____ with all sins and evil lusts, and, again, a new man daily come forth and arise; who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever. Where is this written? Answer. St. Paul says *Romans, chapter 6: We are _____ with Christ by Baptism into _____, that, like as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"