



WEEK 4

January 23 & 24

A Watery Grave

This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES OVERVIEW

The nautical term “deep-sixed” was used during the days before sonar to indicate a depth of six fathoms (36 feet or over 10 meters) under the water. It was considered a depth from which recovery of an item would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. In our lives, we’re often tempted to gather up our shameful, embarrassing moments and “deep-six” them, never to be seen again. God’s grace offers us another way.

MAIN TEXT

Acts 16:25-34, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 3:21-22, Romans 6:4

GETTING STARTED

If you could win a famous award, which one would it be? An Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, or Tony Award?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 51:3, Isaiah 43:25, and Psalm 103:12 out loud as a group. What stands out to you in these verses?
2. Aaron said, “God wants to grant you freedom, not condemnation.” How does deep-sixing our sin prevent us from experiencing that freedom? Why does trying to manage our sin and secrets bring condemnation?
3. In the narrative in Acts 16:31-34, the prison guard asked what he must do to be saved, and Paul’s response was simple. Are you making the gospel more complicated than it should be? If so, why, and

how can we as Christ followers simplify it so people can understand it?

4. In this weekend’s sermon, we learned what it means to give your life to Jesus. As a believer, can you articulate this? If not, can your group discuss how to communicate this to unbelievers?
5. Believing in Jesus isn’t just believing that He exists, but placing your trust in who He is. What’s the difference? How does our pride keep us from trusting in Him?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God wants to give you a gift of grace enacted by faith. What does it mean to have imputed righteousness? Why do you think you can’t earn grace?
7. The biblical process that we see in Scripture is belief, and then baptism. Baptism is not the means of our salvation, but it displays our salvation. Read John 15:14, Romans 6:4, and 1 Peter 3:21-22. Are you as obedient to what Scripture says as you can be? What does baptism mean? Why should we be baptized? Why do some people struggle with the decision about baptism?

NEXT STEPS

Split off into smaller groups, gender-based groups and discuss:

Am I hiding anything that is keeping me in an unhealthy place? If you are, why?

Read Galatians 2:20 and pray with one another that God would confirm in our hearts that it is no longer us who live, but Christ who lives in us.