



# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever attended a Baptism? What details do you remember about it?

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2. Which type of baptism in the Old Testament caught your attention the most? Why? Did any of those types of baptism come as a surprise to you? Explain?

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3. Ezekiel 36:25–26 says, “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you.” What do you think it means to have a new heart and a new spirit through Baptism?

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4. Why do you desire Baptism for your child or godchild? What is your deepest desire for your child or godchild in Baptism?

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## FLYING HIGHER

*“Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God’s Lordship.”*

—St Gregory of Nazianzus



# ▶ PARENT/GODPARENT PROMISE

## TO THE PARENT

**Just as God saved his people Israel from slavery in Egypt by the waters of the Red Sea, God wants to give your child a life of freedom in him through the waters of Baptism.** By seeking Baptism for your child, you are God's instrument leading him or her to freedom and new life, as Moses led the Israelites. It is God who saves, but as a parent choosing Baptism for your child you have a unique and precious role to play, both now and after the Baptism.

### Consider the following prayer from the Rite of Baptism:

Almighty God  
 you sent your only Son to rescue us from slavery of sin,  
 and to give us the freedom only your sons and daughters enjoy.  
 We now pray for this child  
 who will have to face the world with its temptations,  
 and fight the devil in all his cunning.  
 Your Son died and rose again to save us.  
 By his victory over sin and death,  
 cleanse this child from the stain of original sin.  
 Strengthen him (her) with the grace of Christ,  
 and watch over him (her) at every step in life's journey.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The prayer uses the imagery of the Exodus to describe the spiritual reality of Baptism: freedom from slavery followed by a challenging journey. The prayer asks God to strengthen the child and watch over him or her throughout the journey of life. You are the first answer to that prayer. You are the first means by which God will protect and guide your child.



Saint Augustine being baptized by Saint Ambrose of Milan / Scala / Art Resource, NY

What will you do to help your child walk in the freedom of his or her identity as God's child? How will you help him or her resist the temptations of the world and the devil's cunning? How can you start fulfilling this mission even now?

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