

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 5

Introduction: *Start the thinking process.*

Ask your class what the word *baptism* brings to their minds. Have 2-3 members share their insights.

Point 1: *Help your group members connect with the major theme.*

Preparation is an important part of life. Lead the group members to divide into two groups. Ask one group to list what is necessary to prepare to go on vacation and have the other group list what is necessary to prepare to get a job. Give them a few minutes to discuss their answer and then have a representative speaker from each group share the lists.

Part 2: *Engage using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Show your group members the video clip “I Surrender to Your Will” (1 minute, 57 seconds) from the film *Bruce Almighty*. This clip is available on WingClips at <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/bruce-almighty/i-surrender-to-your-will>.

Think-Pair-Share: As your group members watch the video, ask them to pick two statements that stand out to them.

“**Think** for 30 seconds on the two statements... Why did you choose them? Discuss these in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 3: *Help your group members connect with the lesson by analyzing a quote.*

Read the following quote to your students:

In the early days of the church...baptism was a declaration that the believer was definitely identifying himself with that group of people who were called Christians and were despised and hated. To be a Christian meant something. To identify yourself with those who were called Christians meant persecution, maybe death; it meant being ostracized from your family, shunned by friends. And the one act which was the final declaration of this identification was BAPTISM. As long as a man gathered with Christians, he was tolerated, but when once he submitted to baptism, he declared to all the world, I BELONG TO THIS DESPISED GROUP, and immediately he was

persecuted, hated, and despised. In baptism, therefore, the believer entered into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. A person might be a believer and keep it strictly a secret and thus avoid unpleasantness and suffering, but once he submitted to public baptism he had burned his bridges behind him.

Ask your students to comment on baptism as the practice that public identifies them with Christ to the world, meaning that it could make them a target for persecution.

[Source: M.R. DeHann, quoted in “Baptism Quotes: 27 Inspirational Christian Sayings,” *What Christians Want to Know*, <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/baptism-quotes-27-inspirational-christian-sayings/#ixzz4Z38iqRdF>.]

Teaching Tip of the Week

In his seminal book *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive*, Howard Hendricks succinctly states: “If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.”

As teachers, we are always to be students first and foremost. We are to share from the overflow of our learning and passion for the subject. The goal of our instruction should be transformed lives (Luke 6:40), not only for our students, but for ourselves as well. Ask yourself, “What am I doing to continue learning?” If you can’t answer that question in the affirmative, add something to your life today to help you in this endeavor. Suggestions include taking a class, reading a book on education or on the Bible, and visiting the classroom of a great teacher!

[Source: Howard Hendricks, *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1987), 17.]