

## Conversation Starters

- Have you run into any barriers to accomplish your goals for today?
- How did you react when things were not accomplished?

## Discuss

This week we discussed several common reasons, some more trivial than others (like fear of getting wet vs. I was baptized as an infant), that people have for not taking the step to be baptized.

- Did any of these resonate with you? Is there a barrier you have for not getting baptized or one that you wrestled with before?
- How can/did you overcome this barrier?

Baptism is a sacrament, a sacred act, that reflects your choice to put your faith in Christ. It follows a decision that only you can make. No one else, not your family or friends or anyone, can make that decision for you. And it's really a personal decision between you and God.

- Have you personally made a decision about who you believe Jesus is?
- How may have you let others influence you without you being ready, that maybe has you questioning your faith now?
- Can you confidently say when you put your faith in Jesus?

Then, AFTER you've made that decision, be baptized and publicly mark that decision. Jesus said:

*“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.”*  
(Matthew 10:32-33)

- What is still holding you back?
- What can you do to overcome it?
- How have other barriers in your past affected you negatively?
- How can you change how you react to barriers today and in the future?

## Next Steps

Think about any barriers you have between you and your relationship with God. Pick one of them if you have multiple. Prayerfully consider what your next practical step is to overcoming it.

## Pray

Father, you are much bigger than any barrier that we may have between us and you. We may have some between us right now. But you are faithful to provide all that we truly need, and promise to direct us in our relationship with you. Thank you for being faithful and for providing for us. Please give us wisdom as we try to identify and overcome our barriers with you.