

# EXPLORING BAPTISM

## COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

What has God done?

Who am I?

Where is my life going?

MAY 5, 2018

COLLEGE CABIN & COLLEGE MENNONITE

• FOR WE DIED AND WERE BURIED •

**WITH CHRIST BY**

**BAPTISM**

AND JUST AS CHRIST WAS

**RAISED FROM THE DEAD**

BY THE GLORIOUS POWER OF  
THE FATHER, NOW WE ALSO

**- LIVE NEW LIVES -**

ROMANS 6:4

# CONGRATULATIONS

You have come to a turning point of life. Many people have loved you, taught you God's way, showed you God's love, and have waited for you to get to this point. Now it is up to you. No one can make you get baptized. But all of us who have loved you eagerly wait to welcome you fully into the church and into God's people.

“Baptism is never a private vow. It is our conscious, deliberate, public identification with God and God's People. To die to oneself is to leave oneself. But no one can leave himself unless he has somewhere else to go! In baptism we cast our lot with the community of the Spirit, and God's mission for the whole world through the church.”

- James Waltner

# SALVATION



<i>Theme</i>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Calling</b>	<b>Covenant People</b>	<b>Triumphs &amp; Failures</b>
<i>Summary</i>	God Made All Good Humans Ate Earth Ached	Abraham Followed Blessings Flowing Joseph Ruled Pharaoh Forgot Moses Led Egypt Bled God Delivered	Manna Fell Commandments Guided God Taught People Balked	Joshua's Band Promised Land People Forgot Judges Retaught David United God Replaced
<i>Stories</i>				

# HISTORY



Resets	The Example	Hope	New People	Discernment
Prophets Spoke Exile Broke Nehemiah Returned People Relearned	Baby Came Beloved Named Love Proclaimed Miracles Made Outcasts Followed Leader Wallowed Thrice Denied Crucified	Jesus Lives Death Defeated Spirit Flamed All Invited	Peter Preached Millions Reached Gifts Shared Shalom Prepared Persecution Scattered Hatred Clattered	Church Reforms Faith is Born We're Invited Spirit Guided Join the Song Story Goes On

# SALVATION

Theme	Story in 100 Words	Narrative
Beginning	God Made All Good Humans Ate Earth Ached	<p>- God created love and created us to be in right relationships with God, others, ourselves, and all creation.</p> <p>- God called everything good.</p> <p>- God also gave humans the ability to choose, and when we don't choose to live in right relationships, the world does not function as God intended.</p>
Calling	Abraham Followed Blessings Flowing Joseph Ruled Pharaoh Forgot Moses Led Egypt Bled God Delivered	<p>- God called Abraham and Sarah to follow God wherever he might lead so that they could be a blessing to everyone around them. Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants began to show the world how God wants the world to function.</p> <p>- Abraham and Sarah's descendants become slaves in Egypt, so God called Moses to lead the people out of slavery and into the land that God promised to them. God's power was seen in many ways and the slaves left Egypt, walked through the middle of the Red Sea, and into the wilderness.</p>
Covenant People	Manna Fell Commandments Guided God Taught People Balked	<p>- Once God was alone with the people, God taught them how to follow God instead of their Egyptian slave masters.</p> <p>- God also made a covenant with these people. Because of what God had done for them, God expected them to live a certain way so that everyone could see the world as God intended it to be.(10 commandments)</p>
Triumphs and Failures	Joshua's Band Promised Land People Forgot Judges Retaught David United God Replaced	<p>- When the people got to the land God promised them, they realized that following God was not as easy as they had hoped. Sometimes they trusted God to take care of them like when they marched around Jericho or when David trusted God to defeat Goliath. But other times they chose not to follow God and worshipped other things like when they asked for a king and began worshipping other gods.</p>
Resets	Prophets Spoke Exile Broke Nehemiah Returned People Relearned	<p>- God used the prophets to remind the people of how God wanted them to live in right relationship with God, others, ourselves, and all creation. But the people did not always listen to the prophets and follow God. So God allowed them to be taken away from their land so that they could be reminded of how God taught them to live as a covenant people.</p> <p>- When the people returned home, they did a little better at following God, but they still did not get it</p>

# HISTORY

Theme	Story in 100 Words	Narrative
THE EXAMPLE	<p>Baby Came</p> <p>Beloved Named</p> <p>Love Proclaimed</p> <p>Miracles Made</p> <p>Outcasts Followed</p> <p>Leader Wallowed</p> <p>Thrice Denied</p> <p>Crucified</p>	<p>- So God sent Jesus to us to be a perfect example of how to be God's people and live in right relationships with God, others, ourselves, and all creation. But Jesus did not do what we expected God to do. Instead of being a king, he was a carpenter. Instead of leading an army, he told us to love our enemies. Instead of spending his time with the religious leaders, he spent time with the sick and homeless. Instead of expecting people to serve him, he looked for ways to serve others. People were so surprised, disappointed, and frustrated by him that they hated him and killed him.</p>
Hope	<p>Jesus Lives</p> <p>Death Defeated</p> <p>Spirit Flamed</p> <p>All Invited</p>	<p>- God is more powerful than death, and after 3 days God raised Jesus from the dead. As God's people we have the same hope, that death is not something to be feared because God is always with us.</p>
New People	<p>Peter Preached</p> <p>Millions Reached</p> <p>Gifts Shared</p> <p>Shalom Prepared</p> <p>Persecution Scattered</p> <p>Hatred Clattered</p>	<p>- Jesus showed us that the blessing that God gave to Abraham and Sarah is for everyone! We can all be God's people and know the love and liberating power of God.</p> <p>- Jesus's followers began telling everyone this good news even when people told them to stop and killed them for telling about Jesus.</p> <p>- But God is more powerful than death and that was not enough to stop the Gospel from spreading around the world.</p>
Discernment	<p>Church Reforms</p> <p>Faith is Born</p> <p>We're Invited</p> <p>Spirit Guided</p> <p>Join the Song</p> <p>Story Goes On</p>	<p>- We are each created to be in right relationships with God, others, ourselves and all creation, and God gave us each unique gifts and abilities to do that.</p> <p>- Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, we can know how to follow God and show and tell others how to be God's people.</p> <p>- But we cannot do this alone. God gave us the church, a group of people that worship God, learn together how to follow God, and together use our gifts and abilities to share God's love</p>

# GOD

Story: Genesis 1 & 2

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Listen

I believe God...

# JESUS

Story: John 10: 1-18

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Listen

I believe Jesus...

# HOLY SPIRIT

Story: Acts 2:1-21

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Listen

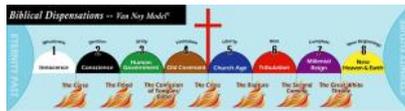
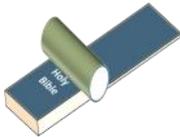
I believe the Holy Spirit...

# BIBLE

Story: Matthew 5:43-48

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Listen:



How do you read the Bible and why do you look at it the way you do?

# SHALOM/CHURCH

Story: Exodus 16

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Story: Acts 2:44-47

Reflect:

- Who has been the church to you?
- When have you been the church to others?
- What story from your life resonates with this story?

# SALVATION

Stories: Exodus 14:5-31      Jesus's death and resurrection

Reflect: What story from your life resonates with this story?

Listen

What do you believe about salvation?

# BAPTISM

1. Do you believe in God, maker of heaven and earth; in Jesus Christ, God's Son and in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life?
2. Do you reject the sin of this world and turn to Jesus Christ as your savior? Do you put your trust in his grace and love and promise to obey him as your Lord?
3. Do you accept the Word of God as guide and authority for your life?
4. Are you willing to give and receive counsel in this congregation and support it in prayer and service?
5. Are you ready to participate in the mission of the church?

# MY STORY

Look back at your various belief statements.

Put your stories together as a way of telling where you are now. Draw, write, word map, outline, record yourself telling it, find or take a picture that represents it, sculpt, write a song, ...however you can best represent your story.

# LISTEN

What do you hear or notice in other peoples' stories that helps you to see God?

# NEXT STEPS

◆ Discern your readiness for the commitment of baptism.

Are you ready to join your story to God's story?

- Pray

- Talk with friends, family, mentors

◆ Read *God's Story Our Story* and the Bible

◆ Meet with Daniel to talk about discernment and your faith story

◆ Find a date for Baptism

# NOTES



## CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A Mennonite PERSPECTIVE

### Article 11. Baptism

We believe that the baptism of believers with water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water, and blood.

...

Christian baptism is for those who confess their sins, repent, accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and commit themselves to follow Christ in obedience as members of his body, both giving and receiving care and counsel in the church. Baptism is for those who are of the age of accountability and who freely request baptism on the basis of their response to Jesus Christ in faith.



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