



GOING DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH

BAPTISM



WHAT'S NEXT?

You've made a choice, but you know there must be something *more* than day-to-day living. When it comes to faith...*your* faith...it might just be time to take the next step.



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JESUS WAS ALL ABOUT OBEYING HIS FATHER. WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE STARTED MINISTRY IN OBEDIENCE.

Jesus approached John, the one who was baptizing people, and asked to receive what God had commanded.

John was shocked! He looked at Jesus and said, "You should be baptizing *me*, I'm not even worthy to unlace your sandals."

But Jesus spoke to John saying, "*It is proper for us to do this so prophecy may be fulfilled.*"

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went to the river's edge. At that moment heaven opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon him. A voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*"

Matthew 3:16-17



BAPTISM

THIS IS A BIG STEP TO A DEEPER WALK WITH GOD. IT'S THE FIRST STEP INTO AN EMPOWERED LIFE OF MINISTRY.

How can being immersed in water bring about an *empowered* ministry life and a *deeper* walk with God? Simply put, it's all about *humility*. It's all about *surrender*.

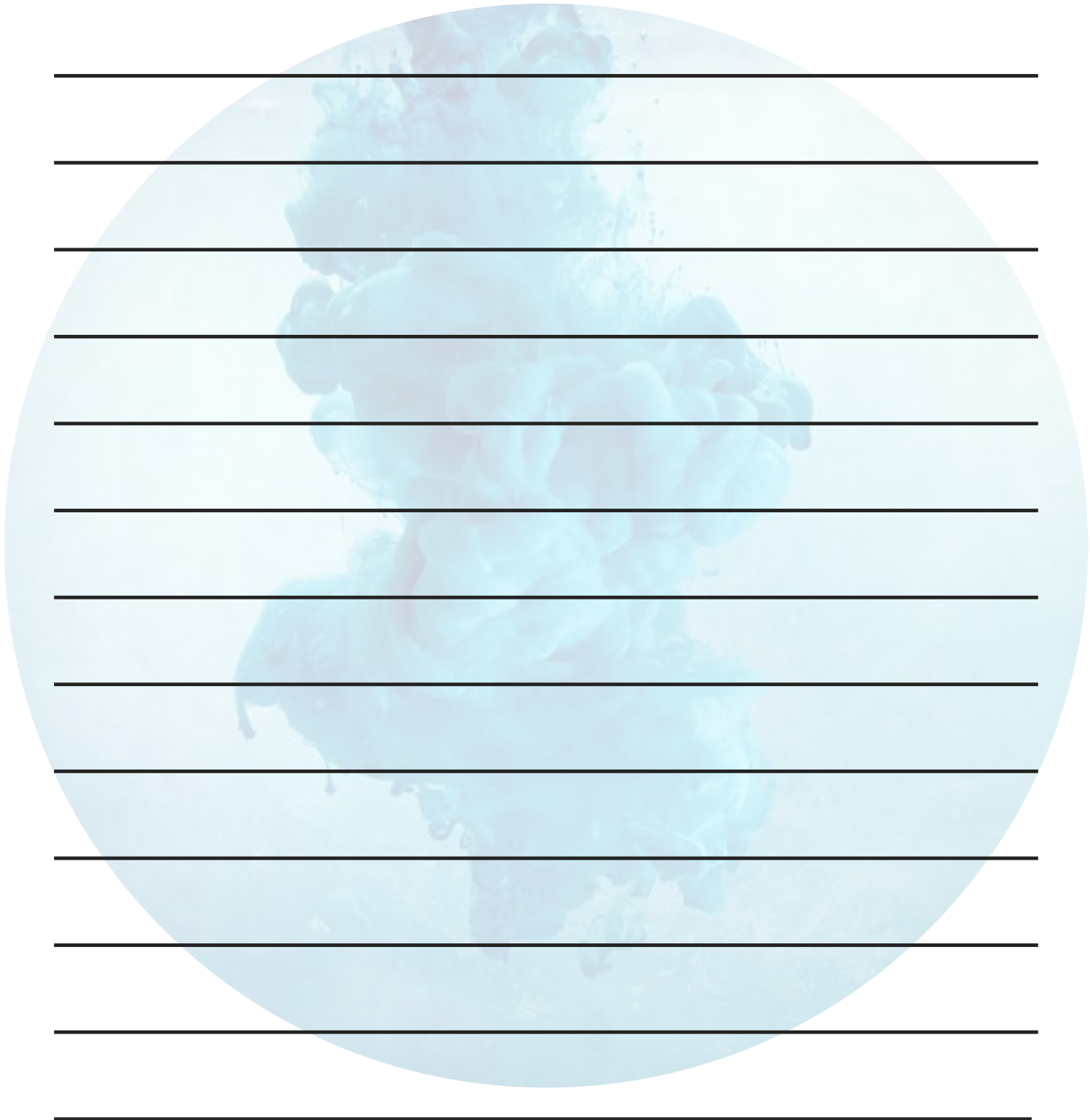
When we talk about being baptized, we first must accept Christ as our saviour. It's only through Jesus (not baptism) that we're saved.

Baptism begins with *confession* and *repentance*. This means you choose to admit that you've fallen short of God's perfect plan. You also choose to say, "Jesus, I *need* you in my life. I *need* you to forgive me."

It will be the first step you take into the adventure of a lifetime.



NOTES:



A large circular graphic with a light blue background and a faint image of a person's face, overlaid with horizontal lines for writing.

YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED AS A SYMBOL OF GOD'S GRACE.

"I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER FOR REPENTANCE, BUT THE ONE WHO COMES AFTER ME WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT."

Repentance is a fancy word for being sorry for (*and running away from*) the stuff that separates us from God. Let's face it, we've all stepped outside of God's absolute perfect plan for us, and we need to get right with Him. The Bible makes a clear connection between repentance and baptism.

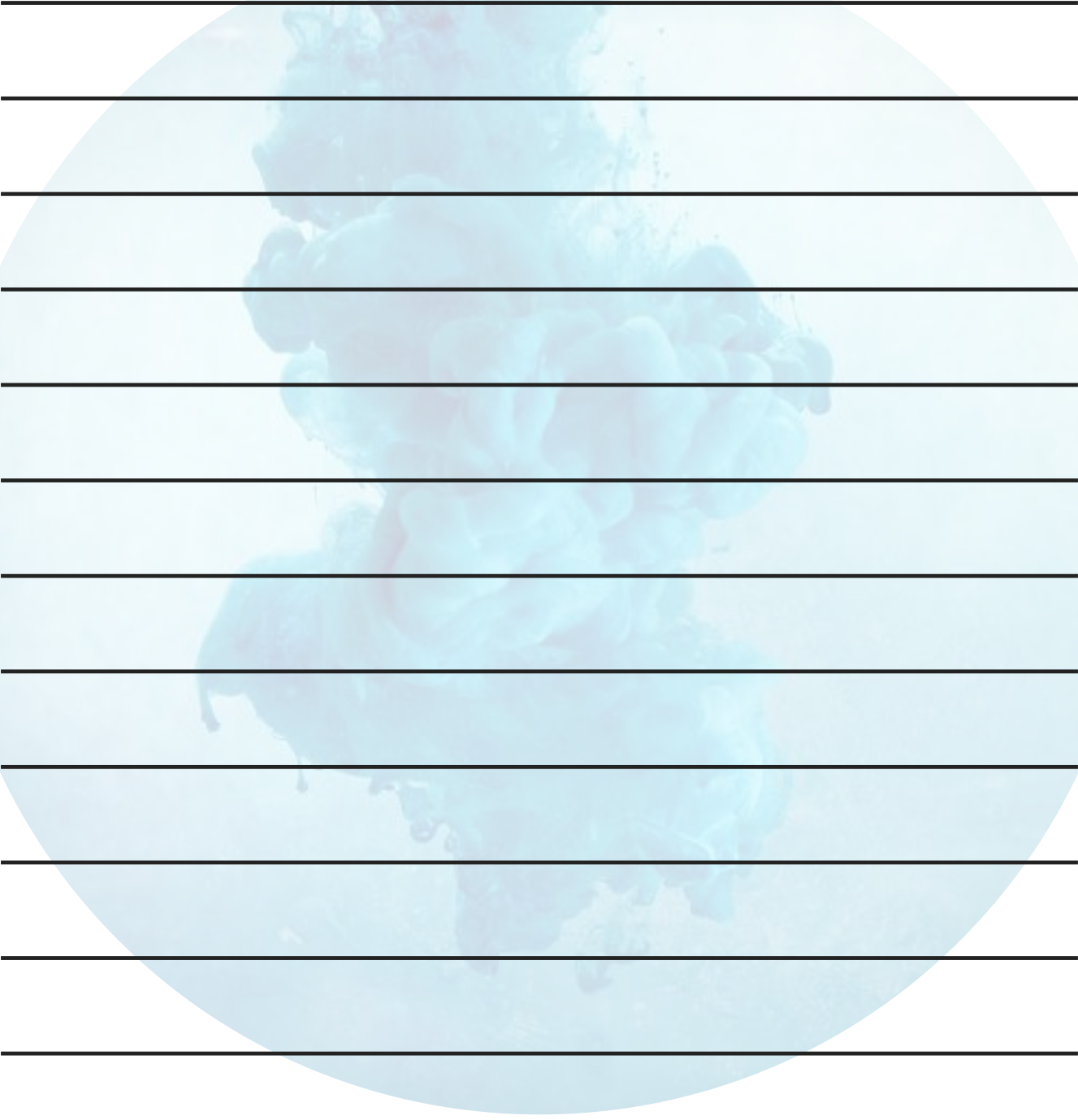
I CAN'T BE HOLY ON MY OWN. I'M A SINNER AND I CAN'T STOP SINNING, BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE, I CAN TURN FROM SIN.

When we repent, we agree that we are sinners who violate God's standards for holiness. Part of the process of repentance is telling God we need Him to clean up the mess we've made. He's so gracious with us, and He is *faithful* to forgive us! He removes the blotches of sin from our lives and no longer counts them against us. We truly receive *New Life*.

In baptism, we say to the world, "I can't be holy on my own. I'm a sinner and I can't stop sinning, but because of God's grace, I can turn from sin." Baptism is a beautiful picture of God washing away our dirt and making us clean. In this act of obedience, we can also show others that they can be clean too.

"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, so that you may experience *God's grace*, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

NOTES:



YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED BECAUSE IT SHOWS YOUR LOYALTY TO CHRIST.

"FAITH UNITES US TO CHRIST;
BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES THE UNION."

JOHN PIPER

An analogy for this would be saying, "With this ring I thee wed."

It's not the wearing of the ring which makes us married. The ring is simply a symbol of the marriage covenant. It shows people around us that we're committed. So it is with faith and baptism.

Baptism publicly professes our inward faith, and declares our loyalty to Christ alone.

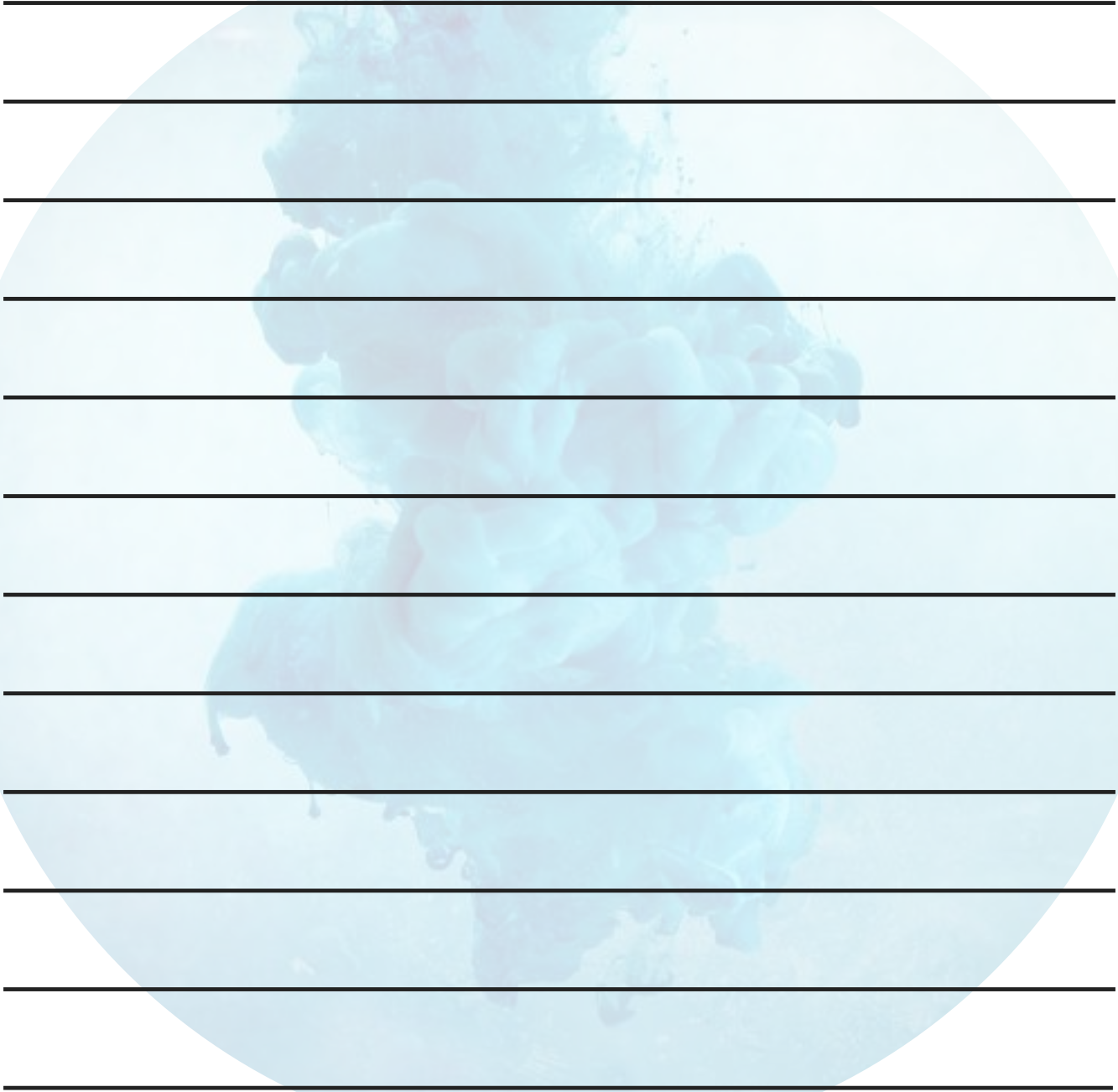
BAPTISM IS A RELINQUISHING OF ONE'S SELF; IT IS A DISPLAY OF LOYALTY AND SURRENDER. IT DECLARES TO THE WORLD AROUND US, "I CHOOSE CHRIST. MAY HIS WAYS BECOME MINE. IN HIM ALONE I LIVE AND BREATHE."

If we were ashamed to be married, we'd most likely do it in secret. However, when we are joyful about something, we choose to declare it from the mountaintops!

It is like this with our relationship to Christ. Because of Him we are free, we have life, and life in *abundance*! Baptism is a public declaration of our loyalty to Jesus because of what He's done *for us*!

"Let love, *loyalty* and faithfulness never leave you... tie them around your neck, write them on your heart. Then you will have favour and a good name in the sight of God and man."

NOTES:



YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED BECAUSE JESUS COMMANDED IT.

“WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST SHOWS WE DESIRE HIS WILL ABOVE OUR OWN. THERE IS NO GREATER JOY THAN TO BE A PART OF HIS LASTING WORK.”

Right before Jesus went to heaven to be with his Father, He appeared before many and gave His followers their instructions. These were His final words to them—the things He really wanted them to remember.

These instructions were very simple, yet too often we take a simple concept and make it needlessly difficult.

Christ always taught in simplicity that was bolstered by wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit. Here’s what He asked **all** of His followers to do:

- ➔ **GO**
- ➔ **MAKE DISCIPLES**
- ➔ **BAPTIZE THOSE DISCIPLES**
- ➔ **TEACH THEM TO FOLLOW GOD’S WORD**

Baptism is a symbol of God’s grace and it’s a way to publicly pledge our allegiance to Him.

“Go out and make disciples worldwide, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have **commanded** you. Remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time”

NOTES:



A large circular graphic with a blue-tinted underwater scene. In the center, a diver is visible, surrounded by a large, intricate, and somewhat ethereal sea creature or coral formation. The scene is overlaid with horizontal lines for writing, starting below the 'NOTES:' header and ending above the page number.

YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED BECAUSE JESUS DID IT.

“TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST. THERE IS A NEWLY BIRTHED DESIRE TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ONE WHO WENT BEFORE US. BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR PASSION TO BE AS JESUS.”

Matthew chapter three in the New Testament tells the story of Christ's baptism. He sought to observe this ordinance as it came by way of instruction from his Father.

In keeping with Christ's obedience, we too desire to follow His example and abide in the ordinance of baptism.

CHRIST'S FIRST STEPS INTO MINISTRY STARTED WITH THE OBEDIENCE TO BAPTISM. FROM THAT POINT ON, THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS NEVER THE SAME.

To sum it all up, it can be as simple as this:

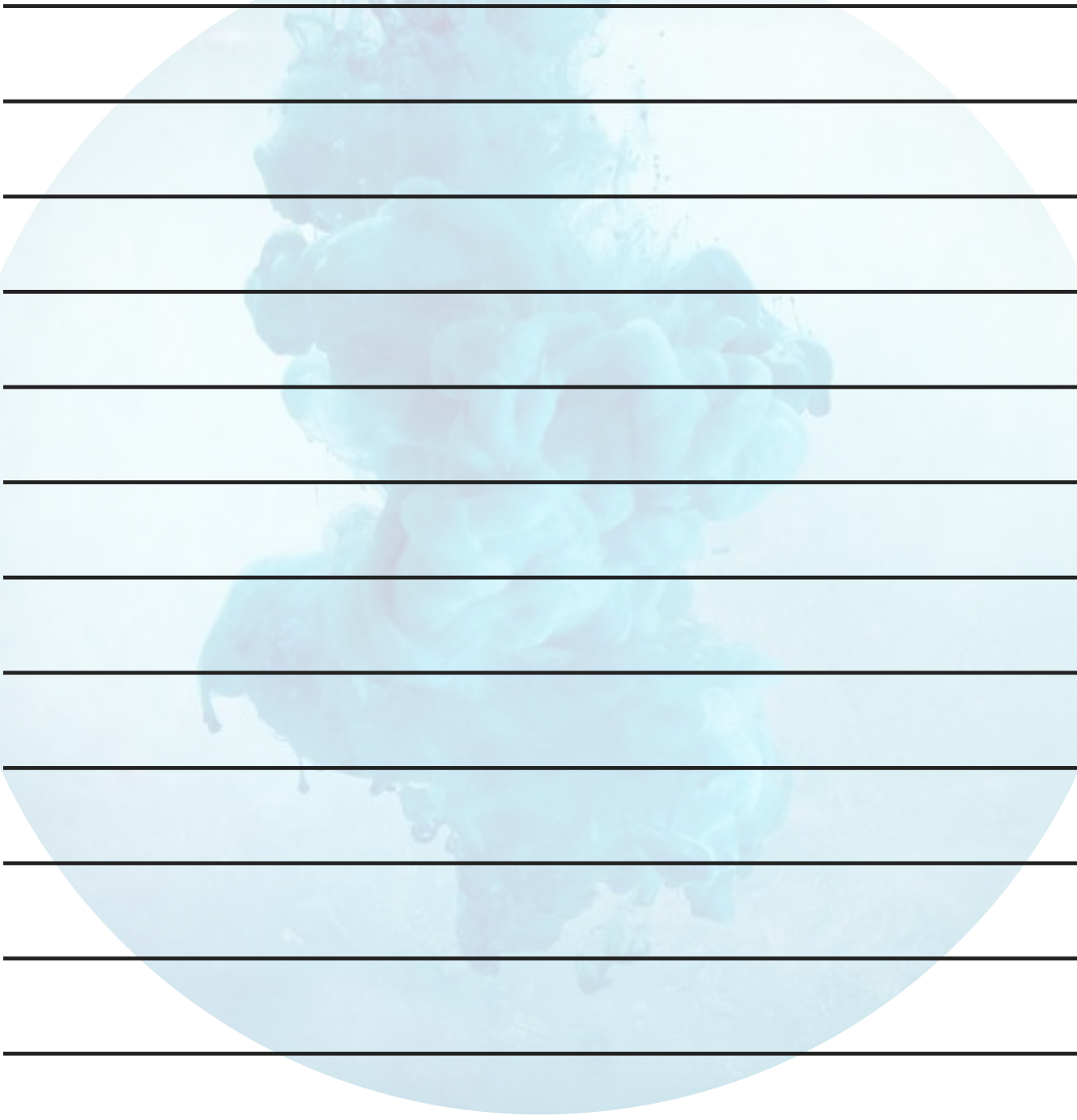
- ➔ **Jesus was baptized**
- ➔ **I want to be like Jesus**
- ➔ **I want to be baptized**



As soon as *Jesus was baptized*, he went to the river's edge.

At that moment heaven opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

NOTES:





For Christians, the process of getting baptized is a symbolic, public proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

Immersion in the water symbolizes belief in dying and being buried with Christ.

Coming out of the water symbolizes belief in Christ's resurrection.

Also, since Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), shouldn't we be too?

OBEDIENCE

WHEN GOD SPEAKS
OBEY HIM



*You are a believer in Jesus, and now it's time to follow Him in **life, faith, and calling.***

It's time to be baptized.

NEW LIFE CHURCH
PASTOR JAMES MCFADDIN