



**Hill Cliffe Study Guide
Baptism Sunday
Sunday 7 April 2024**

1. What impacted you most from the Baptism Service on Sunday?
2. Were Emily's lent reflections on Romans 8 similar to your own, and that of your group, or different?
3. How do you respond to Deborah Beards' story of following the prompting of the Holy Spirit to 'be the church' to Hazel, and 'just do it'? Will it inspire you to do likewise?
4. What struck you from Hazel's Testimony of her journey of faith, read by Deborah Denmade?

Tim did some great teaching on Believer's Baptism – listen again to his 4 points before your group if possible.

Matthew 28.18 Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

5. The first Christians were baptized publicly in the rivers where people worked and washed. Why did Jesus consider this public declaration a key step in their new life as disciples?
6. In Matthew 28.19 above, the Greek word Jesus used for *baptizing* is baptizó, which literally means to dip or submerge, but specifically, ceremonial dipping. By the way, that's how the local water, Dipping Brook, got its name – it's where believers from Hill Cliffe were once baptized. What makes believer's baptism by 'dipping' or immersion such a powerful symbol of our new life in Christ and in the Spirit?
7. We often say that we baptize believers because we are commanded to do it by Jesus, and because Jesus led by example when he was baptized by John the Baptist. When Jesus is baptized, the Father gives a unique affirmation and blessing for his Son by the Spirit (read about it in **Matthew 3.13-17**). When we follow Jesus in baptism, there is an affirmation and blessing from the Father by the Spirit for all his children.
What convinced and compelled you to be baptized like Jesus?