



*"If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation." Jesus is not offering to clean up the old; he is offering to enable the new. Because of his death and resurrection, the possibility now exists for us to be fully released to become who we were always meant to be, who we can be recreated to be. The old you is buried and dead. You have been born again. Welcome to You 2.0!*

### A New Birth 2.0 Experience

1. Why do you think our church places such a big emphasis on baptism? How does baptism connect us to Jesus' instructions in **Matthew 28:18-20**? Follow up: Share baptism stories.
2. **BAPTISM DECLARES... what Jesus did. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.** How can embracing the message of these Scriptures impact your faith journey? Follow up: Rick mentioned that baptism is an "acted sermon" declaring the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. How does this visual representation help us understand and remember the gospel message?
3. **BAPTISM DECLARES... what Jesus can do for me 2.0!** What does it mean for baptism to be the beginning of a life of "duplication" – of *becoming like Jesus*? Follow up: How can understanding the significance of baptism help you live a different story (the story of Jesus)?
4. What power and promises are available to us through baptism, according to **Acts 2:38** and **Colossians 2:12**? Follow up: Why is it significant that the early church did not consider the notion of an unbaptized Christian?
5. **BAPTISM DEPICTS... the burial of you 1.0.** *Baptism declares that we are letting go of who we used to be.* **Read Romans 6:4.** How does baptism indicate our letting go of our old selves and trusting God to transform us? Follow up: Think about something you still need to "let go" of today. What practical steps can you take to surrender that to God?
6. **BAPTISM DEPICTS... the birth of you 2.0.** *In baptism we are not just asking God to bury the past; we are asking God to give us the power to live a new kind of future.* **Read Titus 3:5.** What role does the Holy Spirit play in our new birth and ongoing transformation? Follow up: In what areas of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment as you Follow the Way of Jesus (to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, & do what Jesus did)?
7. Rick closed by asking this question: *Do you have a new birth 2.0 experience?* Why is it important to make our faith our own and go public for Jesus through baptism? Follow up: If you have not been baptized, what is holding you back? If you have been baptized, how has your life been different since making that public declaration of faith?

