

Baptism = death + resurrection

discussion guide

based on **Romans 6.1-14** (Linked to sermon from 29/4/18)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was part of our 'Easter people' series, rejoicing in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Intro: What's your favourite part of the Easter story? why?

Read Romans 6.1-14

"If God is going to forgive us, does it matter if we go on [gossiping / lying / being greedy / watching pornography / fiddling expenses etc] sinning?" That's the question of verse 1 that's being addressed through this section.

Paul answers by reminding people of their baptism: it is a sign that they've been united with Christ. Because of that, they've already died with Christ (in his death, symbolised by immersion in the water) and been raised to new life with Christ (in his resurrection, symbolised by coming out of the water).

What does Paul say about our 'old self' (our pre-Christian self)? (v6-7)

What does he say are the implications of that?

In the sermon, Josh likened the impact that Jesus' crucifixion had on the power of sin in our lives to a lit match going into water. The match is still there, but it has lost its power (light and heat).

Does that ring true for you? Why / why not?

How might you receive this message of freedom from sin's power as an encouragement in your life?

Pick out the times Paul speaks about Jesus' resurrection and links it directly to us. Why do you think he repeats that theme so much?

How can you "count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (v11)?

Our baptism (symbolising our union to Jesus) mean that sin no longer reigns in us; Jesus does. Paul speaks of the implications of that in v12-14.

In his sermon, Josh talked about us now being bound to Jesus in a 3-legged race and wanting to keep in step with Jesus and his way of life. How might that picture inspire you to resist sin and offer yourselves to God?

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (love God): Spend some time praising Jesus for all that this passage says he has done for us.

In (love each other): Paul was writing this to a group of Christians, not just to isolated individuals. How might we help each other put this 'resist-sin-by-remembering-your-baptism' way of thinking into practice?

Out (reach the world): It was great to have an adult baptism (Faye) on Sunday. Pray for her, and that we would have many more over the coming years.