



UNLIMITED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 4

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

This series from Acts 9-15 tells the story of Jesus' first disciples learning that the gospel is for all. It cannot be limited by race, by tradition, or even by persecution. It calls the church in every generation to embrace the unlimited mission of God.

- 1** Take a moment and share your baptism story with your group. What can you remember about it that might encourage others?
- 2** It is clear from reading the book of Acts that the early church thought baptism was very important. The idea that someone would accept the gospel without being baptized is never entertained. Today, however, you often hear people question the importance of baptism. Why do you think that is?
- 3** **BAPTISM IS EXPECTED of every Jesus-believer in the New Testament.** "Is baptism necessary?" is a question the NT never entertains. For the apostles it was simple: Jesus did it, and Jesus told them to do it. **Read Acts 2:41, 8:12, 8:36, and 16:33.** What explains the eagerness of these people to get baptized?
- 4** **Read Acts 2:38-39.** Peter was not making a rule; he was offering a promise. What did Rick mean by suggesting that baptism was not so much an order but an invitation?
- 5** **THE INVITATION IS NOT LIMITED... by my past sins.** **Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16.** Jesus did not come to clean up good people; he came to raise up dead people. Water cannot remove sin. Only blood can do that. How does baptism connect us to the blood of Jesus?
- 6** **THE INVITATION IS NOT LIMITED... by my present status.** Baptism is one pool where everyone is welcome. The first Christians baptized everybody despite their race, their gender, their profession or their economic status. **Read Galatians 3:26-28.** How does baptism make a powerful statement about the reconciling work of the cross?
- 7** **THE INVITATION IS NOT LIMITED... by my future struggles.** Baptism does not promise a life without trials, but it does promise a hope that helps us endure them. **Read Colossians 3:3-4.** In what way is baptism "resurrection practice"?
- 8** **Read Romans 6:3-4.** Rick said "*In baptism God invites me to join His never the same story.*" What did he mean by that? How can you step more into God's story this week?