

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

Would you rather take a bath or a shower? Swim in a pool or soak in a hot tub? How does your purpose factor into these answers?

LEARN & APPLY

Read **Matthew 3:1-11**.

- What is the purpose of John's ministry?
- What does it mean to you to "repent?" Have you ever felt convicted and changed because of it?
- Have you ever been so dirty that taking a bath made you feel like a new person? Share the story with your group!
- Why do you think after people confessed their "dirt" that John chose to use a dip in the water as a way to signify a new beginning?

Read **Matthew 3:11-17**. There's only so much we can wash! John tells us one is coming with a power far beyond ours.

- What do you think the Holy Spirit does?
- What does fire do?
- What do you think John is saying about what Jesus' baptism will do for us (as opposed to his)?

Read **Acts 19:2-5**. A baptism of repentance will only take us as far as our own willpower. A baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection applies his power to us! What happens when we get these confused?

Read **Titus 3:3-8**. What is your take away from these verses?

PRAY

Lord, teach me to trust not in my ability to clean up but in what you have done to make me new by the gift of your grace alone. Amen.