Baptizing

MAIN THING
Baptism is the beginning of obedience

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38, Acts 19:1-5

ICEBREAKER
Have you ever taught someone how to do something? What did you teach them? What made it enjoyable/frustrating? Did you learn anything from it?

OPENING THOUGHT
Baptism is one of those church words that we seem to over complicate. Baptism at its core should be cleansing through faith, which would allow God (The Holy Spirit) to dwell within us. It is very important for all Christian to go through this stage of obedience, because without the spiritual cleansing of Sin in our life there is no way we can have fellowship with our God. When we are baptized, we are having faith that Jesus is cleansing us of all our sins so that we 1) do not have to worry about being in right standing with God, 2) So we one day can have eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's service?

2. Read Acts 2:38. On Sunday, Rob said that, without the spiritual cleansing, we can't have fellowship with God? What does he mean by that? How does baptism affect that?

3. We learned this week that the "why" behind baptism is of extreme importance. In Acts 19:1-5, we see where some disciples had been baptized for repentance and not in the name of Jesus. What happened next, and why was that so important? How does this speak to other forms of baptism, such as infant baptism?

LIFE APPLICATION
Have you been baptized? If you have, why did you do it? What was the reason for this decision in your life? Are you living out the commitment you made when you were immersed? If you haven't been baptized, why? What is holding you back from making this decision, and why not today? The Bible is very clear that this is something that we are commanded to do. Does it make you disobedient that you aren't baptized? If you need to make that decision today, make it. There is no need to wait for a special occasion to make your relationship right with God.

GROUP CHALLENGE
When someone makes the decision to follow Christ into baptism, how do you celebrate? This is a victory for the kingdom. The challenge for you group is to make sure that, when someone is baptized, you celebrate. Would your group be willing to make a care package for newly baptized believers? How about actually throwing a party for them? As a church, we celebrate what we care about. Let's celebrate the biggest win in a believers life together.