

# Connecting Group Study Guide

## *Knowing, Growing, Going*

Week of August 28 – September 3, 2016

### Follow-up

1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.

This week our church family celebrated the baptism of a few young disciples. Baptism is one of those theological pieces of our faith that has endured even in spite of some “folk theology” surrounding its meaning. What are some of the “folk” beliefs that seem to exist regarding baptism? Part of what baptism signifies involves being raised to new life in Jesus Christ. Our study today will dive into this a bit more.

Read Titus 2:11-14 and 3:3-7.

### Knowing

Throughout the Bible, especially the New Testament, baptism is connected to one’s belief in Jesus Christ. The act of baptism is an outward symbol to a witnessing community (the church) of an inward heart change that has already taken place through one’s faith in Christ.

1. In this passage from Titus 2:11-14, what is significant about the word “appear” (used 2x)?
2. What are the changes that Paul tells Titus accompany one’s reception of God’s grace through Christ? List them out together.

### Growing

Paul begins Titus 3:3 with the words “At one time…” These words point the believer backward—to the pre-faith life without Jesus.

1. According to Titus 3:3 how does Paul describe human behavior pre-conversion?
2. Looking at Titus 3:4-7 how does Paul describe the life and character of a believer in Christ?
3. List out the characteristics from 3:3 next to the characteristics from 3:4-7. Discuss the differences you see between the two lists.

### Going

Hopefully you have seen from Titus 2:11-14 and 3:3-7 the importance of life change and transformation through a relationship with Jesus Christ. In Paul’s own words, we become a people less focused on self and we become “eager to do good” (2:14).

1. Looking at the list of characteristics from 3:3 and 3:4-7, what is one change that your relationship with Jesus Christ has brought about in your life?
2. What is an area in your life that you still need to lay before the Lord, seeking change, as you await the next appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. What are you going to do about it?

Close in Prayer:

Break up into groups of two and pray specifically for one another—specifically for each other’s response to question #2 above.