

Discussion Guide: Part 2

THE BODY: CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

1. What common elements of baptism do Christians of various denominations share?
2. What are some of the different modes of baptism mentioned in the film? Which of these methods are used in your faith community and why?
3. Did it surprise you to learn how people were baptized in the early church?
4. If applicable, share your baptism experience with the group.
5. What do people in your faith community do to prepare for baptism? How does this differ from the preparation of Christians in the early church?
6. The episode mentions several different types of baptismal fonts and pools. How is baptism incorporated into the architectural style of your worship space?
7. At what age can members of your faith community participate in baptism? Why?
8. In the episode, Dr. Lester Ruth makes the statement that “the baptismal waters paint the biblical story on our bodies.” What do you think is meant by this statement? Do you agree or disagree?

THE BODY: CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. Do you agree with John Wesley’s statement that “there is no such thing as a solitary Christian?” Why or why not?
2. Describe some of your earliest memories of worship as celebrated within a faith community.
3. In the New Testament book of Acts, there are references to the practice of communal living among Christians. Why do you think this is not a common practice today?
4. How can one reconcile the need for community with the need for solitude in worship?
5. Think of a time when you have been encouraged by other Christians in your church or parish and share this experience with the group.
6. Have you ever been to a worship service in an unusual location such as that of the cowboy church featured in the episode? If so tell the group about your experience. If not, would you ever attend a worship service in a non-traditional setting?
7. Since small groups are an important part of the Christian community, take time to talk about how the group has impacted your spiritual growth and faith practice.
8. What is your vision for the future of Christian worship?

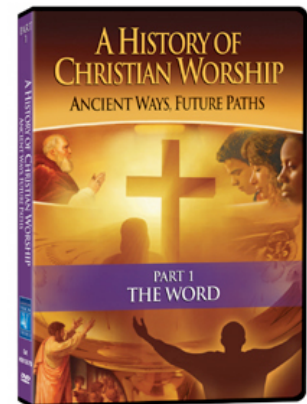
FINAL THOUGHTS ON EPISODE 2

1. What is at least one thing you have learned from this episode?
2. Is there any worship practice in the film that you would like to adopt in your public or private worship experience?

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Tips for Discussion Leaders

- Create a safe environment where people can share freely without criticism or judgment.
- Hold group members accountable to respect different opinions and to allow everyone an opportunity to speak.
- Ask open-ended questions that stimulate ongoing discussion.
- Prepare for the discussion by watching the film in advance.
- Be an active listener with your eyes, ears and body gestures.
- Observe the time limits set for the group discussion.
- Keep the discussion on topic.
- Look for ways to encourage all group members to participate.
- Encourage group members to share personal stories and illustrations as they apply to the subject matter.
- Limit your group to a manageable size so that everyone has time to share their thoughts.



A History of Christian Worship

This six-part series explores centuries of worship practices, as seen through the eyes of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox churches and discussed by leading voices from a cross-section of the Christian community. Viewers will discover the significant people and events that have shaped history and learn how modern worship practices are rooted in the earliest foundations of the Christian faith.