

7. Read Romans 6:11-14.

- a. How can you actively reject the reign of sin in your life this week?
  
- b. How can you offer the parts of your body to righteousness?

**Let's Pray:**

For our missionaries:

*Walfre Estrada - Director, Vida y Esperanza Christian School, Guatemala*

Pray for students' growth spiritually and academically. Pray for the many groups that meet at the church, Bible study, prayer, and mothers groups.

Praise God for burying you with Christ, putting your old self to death, raising you to live with Christ, and putting you under grace rather than law. Ask him to help you count yourself dead to sin and alive to him.

# Sermon Notes

"Baptism: What does it Symbolize?"

Various Texts

April 19, 2015

**Introduction:**

- 1. **Water baptism is** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 3:1-11)
  
- 2. **What does it symbolize?**
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ away \_\_\_\_\_  
(Titus 3:4-6)
  
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus in his \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 6:1-6)

## Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 4-19-15

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 229.

## Getting Started:

1. When Christina's father died, we planted a tri-colored Beech tree in our backyard in memory of him. Every time we admired that tree, it made us think of her dad. Are there similar things in your life that function like a symbol, causing your mind to remember something? Be prepared to share examples with one another.

## Digging Deeper:

2. How would you explain what a symbol does? How does water baptism function as a symbol?

3. Several scriptures speak of our sins being washed away, cleansed, and purged.
  - a. Who is said to do the work of washing according to these texts (Ps. 51:2-4,7,10; Isa. 4:4; Jer. 33:8; Heb. 9:14)?
  - b. When does this cleansing occur according to these texts (Acts 15:7-9; Titus 3:5-6; 1 John 1:9)?
  - c. How do these prior texts help us to understand that water baptism doesn't cleanse us from sin (as some might interpret the following texts), but merely portrays that cleansing (Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 10:22)?
4. Why is it important that our sins be washed away?
5. What does baptism symbolize about our relationship to Christ (Romans 6:2-6)?
6. Before a person is united to Christ, to what is he or she a slave (Ro. 6:6)? How does being united with Christ through his death change our relationship to sin (6:7)?