

**Washed By the Water**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
August 6, 2017

**Message Overview:**

This Sunday is Baptism Sunday at MCA. This Sunday's message is pretty straightforward. We want to ask and seek to answer several questions surrounding baptism. Why do we do baptism and what does it mean? Why should you get baptized? Why you shouldn't get baptized. Baptisms help us remember that God is at work; changing people's lives and we are called to the work of spreading the gospel of Jesus. While the message will focus on Baptism, the discussion guide for this week will invite us to think about how we can deepen our desire to see those around us come to faith. Wouldn't it be awesome to have even more baptisms at MCA?

(The Study this week was created by Grace Church in Overland Park, Kansas.)

**Text:**

- Romans 9:1-5 and 10:1-4

**Questions for Discussion:**

To Begin: As a group, make a list of things in this world that burden your heart.

Have someone read Romans 9:1-5 and 10:1-4

How does Paul describe his compassion for his unsaved countrymen (Rom 9:1-5)?

1. In your life, what people are the equivalent of your unsaved countrymen?
2. Describe your concern for them. Compared to Paul's concern, how fully do you care about them? If your concern for them looked like a gas gauge, where would the needle be?
3. Can you think of ways that would help us move our needles toward FULL?

Consider the three-part focus of Paul's heart.

**1. Focus on the Truth** (Rom 9:1). Paul said he was speaking the truth. It bothered him when people perverted ideas of God and Christ. Christ's love compelled him to make sure people knew the truth How much does it bother you when others speak false ideas of who God and Christ are? Without being offensive and making people less receptive to Christ, what can we do when this happens?

**2. Focus on Those Without Christ** (Rom 9:2-4). The Holy Spirit urged Paul's conscience to take action in reaching the lost. Paul felt intense anguish knowing what would happen to them without Christ. He gave everything he had to reach them. What can we make to reach others for Christ?

**3. Focus on the Savior** (Rom 9:5). Paul knew with certainty that Jesus is the only one who could die for our sins because He was the only one God counted as worthy to do so. Paul knew Jesus is our only hope. Paul knew Jesus is the only way we can spend eternity with God. What kinds of things help us develop this kind of confidence about our faith?

What do the following scriptures indicate as motives for evangelism? 1 Cor. 9:16-17, Acts 20:19-20, and 2 Cor. 5:14-15

**To Consider:** How do our heart motivations line up with Christ's? Pray as a group for God to align our heart with His.