

1. The Nacho Libre Beginning — Baptism Matters!

- The real question: *What is baptism?*
- Greek word *baptizo* = to wash, cleanse.
- The water itself doesn't save — God's promise does (1 Peter 3:21)

2. How Much Water Is Enough?

- Some churches immerse, others sprinkle — both are fine.
- Luther's Small Catechism: "*Water by itself is only water, but with God's Word it is life-giving water.*"
- The power is not in the **amount of water**, but in the **promise of God**.

3. Why Water? The Tangible Promise

- Water makes God's promise personal and real — you can *feel* it.
- Baptism connects the invisible grace of God to something visible.
- Example: Jack's baptism — the promise is *for him personally*.

4. Death and Resurrection in the Water

- Romans 6 — baptism unites us to Christ's death and resurrection.
- Our old sinful self dies; a new life begins.
- God saves us — our "personal salvation projects" are drowned.

5. The Words That Matter

- Baptism must include God's command:
"*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*" (Matthew 28:19).
- The words carry the promise

6. The Power of the Promise

- Baptism gives assurance when life hurts — something to cling to.
- Titus 3:5-6 — God saves us through the washing of rebirth.
- It's not a "get-out-of-hell-free card"; it's the **beginning of faith**.

7. Who Can Be Baptized?

- Adults, children, and infants — all need God's promise.
- The question isn't "*Why baptize?*" but "*What keeps us from baptism?*"
- Faith like a child — God's grace comes before our response.
- Parents love their kids before they can say it back — so does God.

8. Remember Your Baptism

- Even if you don't remember the day, remember the **promise**.
- You are God's child, forgiven, loved, and saved.
- If you haven't been baptized — what's stopping you?
- Baptism isn't about *winning in the ring* — it's about *being claimed by the King*.

Reflection Questions

1. What is baptism really about — the water or the promise?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:21. What do you think that it means to have a good conscience before God?
3. What does your baptism mean to you personally?
4. If you were baptized as a baby, how can you “remember” that promise today?
5. When life gets difficult, what promises from your baptism can you hold onto?
6. Read Titus 3:4-7. How does baptism remind you that salvation depends on God, not your works?
7. Read Mark 10:13-16. Why do you think Jesus welcomed children and said we should have faith like them?
8. Read Acts 8:36-39. What, if anything, do you think should keep a person from being baptized?
9. How might remembering your baptism help you live differently this week?
10. Who in your life might need to hear about the promise of baptism today?