

## FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What is the hardest decision you've had to make in the last 1-3 years? What made it difficult?
2. What is the hardest decision you're avoiding right now? Why? What are the consequences of continued delay (negative or positive)?
3. Have you participated in a Christian baptism (or other religious water rituals), foot-washing, or communion (or another religion's food ritual)? What do you remember, what comes to mind?
4. Here is the North American Baptist statement on Communion and Baptism. Read it outloud. What stands out to you? "<https://nabconference.org/us/> The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
5. When you participate in these symbols, signs, or ordinances there is a decision involved. We do not believe they are "magical" but there is something about the Holy Spirit's presence when we intentionally align our body and thoughts. How would you describe their importance in your life or for someone else?
6. Foot-washing is a powerful symbol of humility, service, and acknowledging the dignity and humanity of others. What do you think about this practice that some Christians still do?
7. Communion is practiced somewhat regularly by all Christians. In some churches, it is the highpoint of their gatherings. What is the highpoint in our gatherings? When it is not communion, what should it be?
8. Communion was originally practiced at mealtimes, in believer's homes. What do you think the role of food should be for Christian practices?

## PRAYER:

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

PEACE WITH SELF • PEACE WITH GOD • PEACE WITH OTHERS

# INHERITANCE

Like the memories and reminders people leave behind after they are gone, Jesus leaves us with three symbols of our inheritance in Him. We will explore these rituals that can be dead religion or life-giving acts depending on how we approach them.

## SETTING THE SCENE - Wills and Beneficiaries

## JESUS' THREE SYMBOLS

One Baptism

*Acts 8:26-39, Romans 6:1-14, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Colossians 2:12-16*

Why?

Who?

What else?

Infant baptism?

Children?

#### **THE FORGOTTEN ONE**

*John 13:1-5, 13-15*

#### **EUCCHARIST: THE HOLY MEAL**

*Matthew 29:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23*

*Jude 1:12*

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Covenant in food

Re-membering

#### **TO SUMMARIZE**