

Group Reading Guide for *Water for Your Soul*

Glenn L. Borreson, ©2008

1. At the beginning of your book group's time, consider reading aloud one of the book's first chapters, meditating on the haiku, and discussing your thoughts. Someone might also pray. (This follows the author's introduction suggestions on page 3.)
2. The author says baptism gives benefits enough to spend a whole lifetime learning them. What does he mean? How is or is not that your understanding or experience of your own baptism?
3. "In baptism God gets physical" (page 19). This, the author maintains, is a key point of Christian baptismal spirituality. Do you find that thought helpful or distressing? How might this differ from other spiritualities of our time?
4. A *haiku* concludes each chapter. Find one or two that spoke to your own heart about baptism, and describe how and why.
5. The author has five water photos with Bible verses on pages 18, 38, 60, 74, and 87. Tell about the one that has the strongest connection to baptism in your life.
6. Pages 22-24., 30, 34, 41, 45-47, and 59 include examples of spiritual practices for individuals or families. What are these practices? Do you use any of them? Which would you like to begin? What keeps you from it?
7. The author includes five prayers (pages 13, 40, 41, 54, 103) to illustrate baptismal spirituality. Which speaks best to you? Why?
8. What do you find in this book to be helpful for parents or grandparents?
9. At the top of page 77, the author writes of "using baptismal spirituality as a lens" to see our lives both as individuals and society. Do you understand what he means by this? Can you think of an example or two from your own life?
10. The topics of chapter 25 and 27, "What the World Runs On" and "A New Holiness," may not be typical of a book on baptism. Do you agree? Do find them to be true or controversial?
11. The author comes from a Lutheran baptism-of-infants tradition. He believes that the baptismal spirituality in this book can be practiced also among Christians who confess their faith before baptism. What do you think? What about your reading group: do its members represent both practices?
12. In his introduction the author writes of baptism having "a cluster of meanings that unfold over our lifetime" (page 2). What has reading or experiencing this book added to your own "cluster of meanings" for baptism?

Note: Permission is granted by the author to make copies of this guide for use by your small group.