

# Anna What? And Menno Who?

## The Big Question:

- What is so important about baptism?

## Break the Ice:

- **Marks of Identity**
  - Show the PowerPoint: Marks of Identity (attached), asking participants to call out what the marks signify.
- **Football Jersey Analogy**
  - Ask for a volunteer with a good sense of humor.
  - Hand the volunteer a large football jersey to wear.
  - Say: *Now, wearing this football jersey does not make \_\_\_\_\_ a football player. A jersey is only a symbol that someone is a football player.*
  - Suddenly, douse the volunteer over the head with a large pitcher of water.
  - Say: *In the same way, baptism does not make someone a Christian. Baptism is an outward sign of what has already happened on the inside.*

## Supplies:

- Marks of Identity PowerPoint (attached)
- Pitcher of water
- Football jersey
- Basins of water—1 per group of 5 or 6
- Cups—1 per group of 5 or 6
- Copies:
  - Look at the Book
  - Handwashing Blessing—1 per group of 5 or 6
  - Anabaptist History in 3 minutes—1 copy

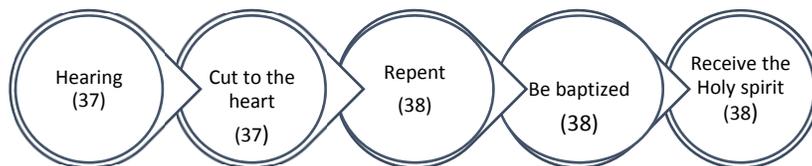
## Look at the Book:

- Jewish Ritual Handwashing
  - Say: *Washing with water is important all through the Old Testament. God gave specific instructions on how to wash—for example, before worship, after sleeping, after contact with a corpse, and before meals. These washings, like many symbols in the Old Testament, pointed to the new ways Jesus brought.*
  - *You are about to experience the Jewish ritual for washing before meals. As you do this, think about how this washing pointed toward the New Testament washing of baptism.*
  - Divide participants into groups of five or six, each with the following supplies:
    - Basin of water;
    - A cup,
    - A paper with the handwashing blessing (attached).
  - Give the following instructions:
    - Fill a cup with water and pour twice on your right hand.
    - Repeat on the left. (Lefties: reverse the order.)
    - Make sure the water covers your entire hand up to the wrist bone with each pour.

- Separate your fingers slightly to allow the water to flow in between them.
- After washing, lift your hands chest-high to dry and say the following blessing:

*Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us concerning the washing of the hands.*

- Distribute handout: **Look at the Book** (attached).
- **Say:**
  - *Some people ask the question, “Do I have to be baptized?” Think about Jesus—who is baptized when he has no sin. Jesus does this to identify with us, but he also chooses baptism to identify with God.*
  - *When Jesus is baptized, heaven opens, and the other two parts of the Trinity reveal themselves. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father says, “This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*
  - *God gives you the symbol of baptism as a way to stand in solidarity with him. Your baptism identifies you with God and brings God’s pleasure washing over you.*
  - *Let’s read more about baptism.*
- *Say: I will read the regular print, and you read the bolded print.*
- Invite participants to work in small groups or partners on the Probing exercises.
  - Chart answers:



### Interact:

- **Anabaptist History in 3 Minutes**
- **Sharing Stories**
  - As a youth leader, share your story of conversion and baptism. Invite questions from participants.

### Pray:

- Pray a blessing on participants and end with the following benediction:

- *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

Revelation 1:5b and 6