

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM?

Why Do People Get Baptized?

As Christians, it is our job to follow the example Christ left for us. Baptism is one of the things that Jesus did as an example for us to follow.

Four Things About You And Baptism

1. Before you are baptized, you have to believe that Jesus died for you to be your Savior. You have to want to love and be like Him.

Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior?

If yes, get a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and write down how it happened.

2. If you believe in Jesus, the reason you get baptized is to show your family and friends that you believe in Jesus and want to be like Him.

Baptism doesn't make Jesus your Savior. It just shows other people that He already is.

On that same piece of paper, write about what happened when you saw someone else being baptized. What did you think about at the time? (If you have never seen a baptism, ask someone to tell you what it's like.)

3. When you think about getting baptized, you also need to think about how you are going to be more like Jesus.

Here are some everyday things that might happen in a young person's life. How would Jesus handle these situations?

Mom and Dad ask you to clean your room and take out the trash, but your friends are waiting for you to play baseball...

Your little brother wants to play with your toys, but he always makes a big mess and breaks things...

You and your friends are just starting a game of basketball when you see the new kid in school standing by the classroom all alone...

4. You can be very happy that you are getting baptized. It's a special time in your life. The most important person in the world loves you—God. He's going to take care of you forever.

Some Questions About Baptism

1. What if you were baptized as a baby?

Our church practices “believer baptism.” That means we baptize those people old enough to understand about needing God to forgive us for our sin, and that Jesus died in our place for sin. There are many stories in the New Testament of adults who were baptized. There are no stories of babies being baptized. Jesus blessed young children. He did not baptize them. Nowhere in the Bible does it command us to baptize babies. However, some of the people who were baptized in the Bible had their whole household baptized. Perhaps there were babies in those families. We don't know.

If you were baptized as a baby in a church where your parents were taught that the baptism washed away sin, and guaranteed that you would go to heaven, then we recommend that you be baptized again as a believer who can now understand that Jesus' death for us is what saves us, not baptism.

Our church does have Parent-Child Dedications where parents can promise to bring their children up to know God. This happens in a special service during the main worship time.

2. What happens if a person dies before he or she is baptized?

We believe that a person can go to heaven even if he or she hasn't been baptized. Like the thief on the cross next to Jesus, who admitted that Jesus was the Son of God: Jesus told him, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” The man was going to die, but he'd see Jesus in heaven—without being baptized. He just had to believe in Jesus (see Luke 23:32-43)

3. What are some other Scriptures about baptism?

- Jesus is baptized: Matthew 3
- The treasurer of Ethiopia is baptized: Acts 8:26-40
- A sales woman and her household are baptized: Acts 16:11-15
- Many in Corinth are baptized: Acts 18:7-8, Acts 2:38-41, Romans 6:1-14 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28, Colossians 2:9-12, and 1 Peter 3:18-22

******Make sure you look these up in your Bible and read them!******

4. Why does going under water have any special meaning?

In Bible times, people were baptized to show that they were turning from their old ways and wanting to live the way the God of Israel wanted them to live. Going under water can be seen as a symbol of dying and being buried, and then coming up out of the water is a picture of coming back to life again. When you go under the water of baptism, you are showing everyone that the selfish part of your life is dead. When you come up out of the water, you are showing everyone you have new life in a relationship with Jesus. This new life with Jesus is one that wants to follow Him. How do you follow Him? You can follow Him by reading your Bible, listening to your pastor and church teachers, talking with God, talking with trusted Christian friends, and obeying your parents (see Romans 6:1-14).

5. Will you feel differently after you are baptized?

Some do. Some don't. Life can be just as challenging as before, but you have peace and comfort knowing you made a decision to follow Jesus. He will give you courage and joy. Jesus says to you, "Surely I will be with you always." (Matthew 28:20b)

6. What about the water? Is it holy water?

The water is just regular water. You can be baptized in a pool, river, lake, stream, or anywhere there is water. There is really no such thing as holy water – The Bible doesn't mention it at all. In fact, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River! (Matthew 3)

Are You Ready For Baptism?

Do you understand the four things about baptism and you?

Can you explain to your parents (guardians) what baptism means?

Are you getting baptized just because your friends are?

Do your parents (guardians) and you believe that you are ready for baptism?