

BAPTISM

For Children and Parents



Table of Contents

How to know if your child is ready to be baptized	2
FAITH	3
SIN	5
CONFESSION & REPENTANCE	7
BELIEVE & FOLLOW JESUS	9
PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH	11
PREPARING FOR BAPTISM	13
How to use the rest of this booklet	15
CHAPTER 1 What is baptism?	17
CHAPTER 2 Am I ready?	21
CHAPTER 3 What will it be like?	23
CHAPTER 4 What should I do if I'm ready?	25
CHAPTER 5 What's after baptism?	28
Frequently Asked Questions	31

How to know if your child is ready to be baptized?

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for taking the time to help prepare your child for baptism. I know you are excited about the spiritual growth taking place in your child.

These feelings of excitement may also be accompanied by some concern that your child may not be ready to be baptized. There is no magic age for a child to automatically be ready to make this decision, but you do want to make sure they are able to comprehend the basic understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

This booklet is full of the concepts we look for an individual to understand when they make the decision to become a Christian. The first half of the book is designed for the parent. These concepts are broken down in simple explanations that you can use when talking with your child. The second half of the booklet is designed as a work book for your child to do independently or with their parent.

I hope you will use this booklet to spark faith conversations at home. If you ever would like to talk more about baptism and if your child is ready, feel free to contact me!

Grace and Peace,

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F A I T H

The word faith is packed with meaning for people in the church and represents what we bring to our relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:8 NLT

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

God gives grace – which is able to save anyone – but we believe, which means to have faith.

When watching your child for signs of spiritual growth, remember the first part of a child's relationship with God begins with them believing that God is real and that God loves them. God loved us so much that God created the whole world, including people; and everything created was good. When talking with a child, if they can express in their own words that they believe in God and God's Son Jesus, you know they have the foundations of a faith in Jesus.

Even if your child is confused about the answers to other spiritual questions, if they believe God is real and Jesus is God's Son who died on the cross for us, the seeds of faith have begun to grow. Let these small sprouts grow! Be careful not to push your children too quickly about making a decision to become a Christian, but continue to help them expand their learning as you watch them progress to the next milestone.

Verses to check out: Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:16

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SIN

When people choose to disobey God, sin entered the world. Sin separates us from God because God is perfect. Children must have an understanding of what sin is and whether or not they are personally guilty of sinning. When talking with your child, simply ask them what sin is. A simple definition you can use for sin is this: a sin is anything we think, say, or do that is our way and not God's way. Listen carefully to their answer, and then guide them to the correct answer if they are unsure or off base.

Another very important question to ask your child during this conversation is whether or not they have sinned. If they say yes, then confession and repentance are the next step. If they say no or aren't sure, they need more time and teaching for them to be aware of times they have sinned. Be patient. Talk about it in your daily routines. Discuss times you have also sinned. Let your child know that everyone sins, and the only person without sin is God.

Verses to check out: Roans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

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CONFESSSION

and

REPENTANCE

Once a child has expressed that they have sinned, the next step is to help them understand the need to confess our sins and repent from them.

We must confess or admit our sins to Jesus, although he knows all about them. He wants us to admit them and ask for God's forgiveness for our sins. (Remember sins are things that we think, say, and do that are displeasing to God and not God's way.)

We must repent, not repeat, or turn away from choosing our own way to choosing God's way. We do this by praying, talking to God, and telling God how sorry we are for our sins. No one can do this for us.

We ask for forgiveness and believe with our thoughts, words, and our choices, God forgives us.

Verse to check out: Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31

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BELIEVE

and

FOLLOW

Children who are ready to be baptized can express that they believe that Jesus is God's son, that he died on the cross for our sins, and we are choosing to live God's way and obey God.

When we make this commitment, we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and are choosing to follow Jesus and live our life the way Jesus taught and modeled for us in scripture. (Examples: loving others, telling others about Jesus, worshipping God, giving back to the church, reading your bible, praying, etc.) When we make this commitment, we will have a special relationship with God that includes eternal life with God, beginning now and continuing in heaven when our body dies.

God forgives us, and we become followers of Jesus or Christians.

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PROFESSION

of

FAITH

Once your child has expressed a FAITH in God, is able to understand when they are SINful, CONFESS their sin and REPENT, they BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross for them, and they express a desire to FOLLOW JESUS, then they have made the decision to become a Christian (a Christ follower) and are ready to be baptized.

For children who have reached this milestone, the next step to baptism is making their public profession of faith. This is when they come before the church and tell the pastor or another minister, to say that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and have decided to follow Jesus.

At First Baptist Church Marietta, this is done by coming forward during our worship service during the Hymn of Response. The Hymn of Response is the song played right after the pastor is finished preaching. The pastor or another minister will be standing at the front of the church waiting for anyone who wants to come forward to make their profession of faith or join the church.

During this hymn, the child and their parents may come forward together to let the pastor or minister know of this decision. The minister will announce to the church that the child has made this decision and will celebrate it with the congregation.

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PREPARING

for

BAPTISM

Once your child has made their public profession of faith during a worship service, someone from the church office will reach out to you to schedule your child's baptism.

They will give you instructions on what to wear, when to arrive, and what will happen. At First Baptist Church Marietta, any ordained minister may baptize individuals. Be sure to let the person contacting you know whom your child would like to baptize them.

Before a child makes their public profession of faith, many parents like for them and their child to meet with a minister on staff. During this meeting the minister will make sure the child knows what they are doing and committing to. If the minister has any concerns that the child might not be ready to make their profession of faith, they would privately discuss it with the parents.

Then the minister will take both the parents and the child to the baptistry to see where people get baptized and to walk you through what takes place. (Most kids are curious about what to wear, how cold the water is, how deep the water is, what is said during a baptism, etc.)

If you would like to schedule a meeting like this with your child and a minister, please contact the church office.



How to use the rest of this booklet

1. Schedule a time to sit with your children with the goal of completing the entire booklet at one time. Being intentional to set a time will help you make it happen. Guard the time you have chosen and have fun.

2. Read the suggested Scriptures ahead of time on your own.

3. Take your time. Enjoy the process of looking into spiritual things with your children. Use this as a way to make talking about God and the Bible a regular part of your family life.

4. Pray together. Ask the Lord to help you have fun learning together, and not be scared about being baptized.



Chapter 1

WHAT

is

BAPTISM?

Baptism shows others the decisions you've made to follow Jesus and live your life the way Jesus taught and modeled for us.

Some people think that being baptized is how you become a Christian. But that's not correct. We become Christians when we make the choice to follow Jesus, living the way Jesus taught us and modeled for us.

Being a Christian means, we know that we sin – we make choices, say things, or think things that aren't pleasing to God. Christians ask God for forgiveness, and we repent and we don't repeat the sin.

Being baptized doesn't make us a Christian. Making the decision to follow Jesus for the rest of our life makes us a Christian. Being baptized is how we show others around us that we have made the choice to be a Christian.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Activity: Check yes or no for which statement reveals a person to be a Christian.

1. Samuel's parents are both Christians. Does this make Samuel a Christian?

_____Yes _____ No

2. Mr. & Mrs. Garner are always ready to help others. They visit the sick, they take food and clothes to people in need, and they help at the local mission. Do these actions make Mr. & Mrs. Garner Christians?

_____Yes _____ No

3. Kayla's best friend has been baptized. Kayla wants to be baptized so she can become a Christian. Would being baptized make Kayla a Christian?

_____Yes _____ No

4. Jonathan is sorry for the wrong things he has done. He is ready to choose God's way. Jonathan knows Jesus died on the cross for everyone. He prayed to tell Jesus about his sins and asked for forgiveness. Jonathan wants God to help him live as he should every day. Do these decisions make Jonathan a Christian?

_____Yes _____ No

5. Haley attends all the organizations her church has for girls her age. She is kind and does her work well. She enjoys attending church and being a helper. Does that make Haley a Christian?

_____Yes _____ No

6. Mrs. Ward is a Bible scholar. She memorizes verses and reads her Bible every day. Does all this knowledge make Mrs. Ward a Christian?

_____Yes _____ No

Acts 2:41 NLT

Those who believed...were baptized and added to the church that day – about 3,000 in all.

Choosing to be a Christian and be baptized is a choice that only you can make. Your parents can't make it for you. Your minister or Sunday school teacher can't make it for you. Your friends can't make it for you. Only you can make the decision.

It's an exciting decision to make, that many other people in your life have already made. Have you ever seen someone be baptized before? What did you notice happened? What questions do you have about baptism?

Ask an adult in your life these questions. You can also ask a minister at our church.

Activity: Ask three other adults what they decided to follow Jesus, become a Christian, and get baptized. Ask them what their baptism was like. Write their answers below.

1.

2.

3.

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AMM

I

READY?

This one is easy to answer! Just place a checkmark in all the boxes that are true of you!

- I believe God made me and loves me.
- I believe Jesus is God.
- I believe Jesus died on the cross for me.
- I have prayed to Jesus to forgive me of my sin.
- I have made the choice to follow Jesus and live my life the way Jesus taught and modeled for me to live.

If you answered “yes” to all of those things, then you are ready to be baptized!

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, then read some of the Bible verses listed below and talk to your parents about them. You could also talk to your pastor or another person you trust who knows Jesus.

Verses about God creating the world: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Verses about who Jesus is: Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; 10:30; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13

Verses about what Jesus did on the cross: 1 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-6

Verses about confessing sin to Jesus: Acts 2:38, 3:19; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9

Verses about what Jesus tells us to do: Matthew 16:24; 1 John 2:3-4; John 10:27; 12:26; 15:14; Matthew 4:19

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Chapter 3

WHAT WILL

it be

LIKE?

It will be one of the most awesome things you will ever do! Of course, you will get wet, so it will be like being dunked under water for a second (no one will hold you down – you'll come right back up).

Sometimes people feel very excited about being baptized but others feel nervous. It's okay to feel nervous! Remember that God will be with you and everyone on in the church is so excited and happy for you!

After you're baptized, you will be glad you followed Jesus! You will be given a special present from the church on the day you are baptized to help you remember this special day.

Activity: Circle all the words that explain how you feel about being baptized or write your own words.

Excited

Nervous

Happy

Scared

Thankful

Confused

Peaceful

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Chapter 4

WHAT
SHOULD

I do if

I'M READY?

Talk to your pastor or minister with your parents and say you're ready to be baptized! We will probably want to set up a time to talk with you (of course your parents can come too). We will ask you some questions about what you believe about Jesus and why you want to make this decision (They won't be hard questions, so don't worry!)

Once you've talked with a minister at the church, you can make your Public Profession of Faith. This is when you come before the church (with your parents) during a worship service during the Hymn of Response. The Hymn of Response is the song played right after the pastor is finished preaching. The pastor or another minister will be standing at the front of the church waiting for anyone who wants to come forward to make their profession of faith or join the church.

During this hymn, you and your parents may come forward together to let the pastor or minister know of this decision. The minister will announce to the church that the child has made this decision and will celebrate it with the congregation.

Then, with your parents' help, you will pick a day for you to be baptized so you can invite your friends and family to celebrate with you.

Activity: Match each word from the bank to its definition.

Word Bank:

Jesus Bible Baptism Sin Cross Christian
Prayer Forgiveness Eternal Life

1. _____ What you do to show everyone you're a Christian.
2. _____ What you are when you believe Jesus is God's son, who died on the cross for your sins. You pray to God to ask for forgiveness of your sins, and you ask God to help you live like Jesus every day.
3. _____ The way we talk to God.
4. _____ Our guide book that tells us about God and Jesus. It tells us how we should live.
5. _____ The place where Jesus died for our sins. Then three days later he arose from his grave.
6. _____ Life forever with God in Heaven.
7. _____ When we tell God we are sorry for our sins.
8. _____ The bad things we do, think, and say that God doesn't like.
9. _____ God's only Son.



Chapter 5

WHAT'S

AFTER

BAPTISM?

Here are some things you'll want to start doing right away so you can get to know Jesus better and find out how He wants you to live for Him:

1. Talk to Jesus! This is called prayer. Jesus loves to hear you tell Him what you're thinking and feeling, what you need, and even what you want. Oh, and He also loves when you ask Him to help others too! You can set a quiet time to talk to Jesus each day, talk to Him as you go places, or both! He is always awake and always ready to listen.

2. Learn from Jesus by reading or listening to the Bible. The Bible is God's words. God gave it to you to help you learn how to follow God. It's also how Jesus teaches you how He wants you to live. It's good to read the Bible by yourself, but you can also read it with a parent or a friend.

3. Spend time at church. God will use the church to help you follow Jesus. At church you can worship God, learn more about God by going to Sunday school and Bible studies, and you can also help love other by volunteering to help in the church.

Activity: Read Luke 10:25-37 and answers the questions below. If you have trouble answering the questions, get a parent to help you.

1. In the story, which person acted the way that God wants us to act?
2. How did the Good Samaritan act?
3. Who is our neighbor and who does God want us to love?
4. How can you share God's love with others around you?

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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How deep is the water during a baptism?** (The water is about 3-3.5 feet deep. Most kids can stand in the water and their head will be above water.)
- 2. How hot or cold is the water?** (There is a heater in the baptistry that keeps the water warm, like your bath water.)
- 3. How long do you stay under water?** (Less than two seconds.)
- 4. What do you wear?** (You will wear your bathing suit or t-shirt & shorts with a white robe over it.)
- 5. Can I hold my nose when I go under water?** (Yes.)
- 6. What do you say during the baptism?** (The minister will say, “Who is Jesus?” You will respond by saying, “Jesus is my Lord and Savior.”)
- 7. Can my parents be up there with me?** (You parents can be on the steps leading into the water, but not actually in the water with you.)



Baptism is not the end of what Jesus wants you to do for him. It's just the **start!** Your whole life now is devoted to **following Jesus**, and He is going to do **amazing things** in and through you! **Get ready** for an amazing journey.

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