

Water Baptism:

Hey kids! Why do we do it?

A parent's guide to help a child understand why we do baptism at GT church.

This guide is designed to help you discuss this next step of faith in your child's life.

We believe that as a parent you play a huge role in nurturing the faith of your child. Once we have committed to following Jesus, we believe the next step is baptism.



What does the word baptism mean?

The word "baptism" means to dip or immerse. To be baptized simply means to place completely under water. In the Bible we see it is a symbol of living a new life. Baptism is a public way to let everyone know that you have asked Jesus to be your Savior and you are committed to living for Him.



Where do we find it in the Bible?

Please READ Matthew 3:13-17

- Have you ever been asked to be a good example for someone else?
- According to Matthew 3:17, What did God say when Jesus was baptized?

Jesus himself was baptized, even though He had never sinned. He commanded John to baptize Him as an example for us. Before being baptized you must make a decision to accept and live for Jesus. When we accept Jesus, He makes us new from the inside out. He changes our attitudes and actions. Baptism is a sign to the world that you have made a decision to follow God and do what He would want you to do. Getting baptized is a great way to show everybody that we are no longer living a selfish life.



Baptism is...something Jesus did, so we should follow His example and do it.

Please READ Matthew 28:18-20 & Mark 16:16

- According to Matthew 28:18 what did Jesus command His followers to do?
- According to Matthew 28:20 how long did Jesus promise to be with us?

The Bible is clear that once we start following Jesus, our next step is to be baptized. Baptism does not save you, does not make you a Christian, or even guarantee you a home in heaven. Because believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 3:16). Baptism is simply a sign that you have accepted Jesus as God's son, who became a sacrifice on the cross for our sins and then arose from the dead showing he has power even over death.



Baptism is...something Jesus commands all believers to do.

Please READ Romans 6:3-6

- What does the act of water baptism mean?

Baptism is an illustration of what Jesus did when He took the punishment for everyone's sins. When we are put under the water, we are reminded of Jesus being dead and buried; symbolizing that our old way of life is dead. When we come up out of the water, we are reminded of Jesus being raised to life. In the same way, he has given us a new way to live our life!



Baptism is...a visible reminder to us and to show others what God has done in our life.

Getting baptized doesn't mean that you will always live a perfect life or always be happy. There will be times in your life where you will sin and make wrong choices. When this happens, you should pray and ask Jesus to forgive you. Or when you are unhappy, ask God for help.

These next few steps are important in following Jesus:

- 1. Read your Bible** - As a follower of Jesus Christ, it's important to read your Bible because it helps you grow spiritually. It's there to guide and direct you in all that you do.
- 2. Pray and talk to God** - God cares what happens to you. God desires to know you inside and out. He wants you to ask him questions and tell Him what is on your mind.
- 3. Go to Church** - Jesus created us to be together. By going to church, you surround yourself with other people who believe in God, and you get to encourage one another, love one another, and pray for one another.
- 4. Share what you believe** - Jesus gave us a responsibility to go out and share His love with everyone. Jesus has placed trust in us to go and share His story with others.



Salvation and then Baptism is...just the beginning of your new life serving God.

Thoughts to consider:

- It's always a good thing to have a child attend a baptism. To see and hear what happens to someone when they are immersed in water.
- Has your child specifically prayed for God's forgiveness and acceptance of Jesus the son of God.
- Is my child making an effort to make wise choices and are they making an effort to live a life that shows God's love?
- Do you as a parent believe your child is able to understand fully what they are asking to do?



Have Questions?

Talking to your child about Jesus is one of the most important things you can do as a parent. For more information, or if you have questions, contact our GT Kids Pastor, Candy Fritz, at the church by calling 610.678.0266 ext. 252 or by emailing candyfritz@gtaog.org.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 NIV