

BAPTISM GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Baptism is a response to what Jesus did for us on the cross. It is an outward sign of an inward heart change. Baptism itself does not save us, only faith in Jesus, but baptism helps us show others our faith.

Your child may have questions about baptism, and that's great! We encourage you to answer them the best you can, and let your children guide the conversations. We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized before bringing up the idea. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of 5 can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait until they are a little older.

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child:

Why do you want to be water baptized?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *Because Jesus was and he tells us to also; Because I want others to know how Jesus has changed my life and cleaned my heart, etc.*

What does it mean to be water baptized?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *It means I'm following Jesus; It means I'm a Christian and I want to show the world; It's a picture of what Jesus has done on the inside of me.*

When did you decide to follow Jesus and ask him to save you?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *Your child should have a specific memory of when he understood what Jesus did for him and that he needs Jesus in his life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when he was alone.*

If Your Child Is Ready:

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then set up a time to talk with your child and your children's pastor about the next steps.

If Your Child Is Not Ready:

If you don't feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. Remember, water baptism does not save— that is done by your child trusting Jesus. Let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means.