



## How to Talk to Your Child About Baptism

Getting baptized is an important first step in the life of a Christian. As a parent, facilitate the conversation, but don't dominate it. Kids are naturally curious. Commit to answering their questions, no matter how silly, and let your child ask lots of questions.

- Remember, walking with Jesus is not a race. Baptism is the first step after salvation for everyone, kids included. But it's possible your child might not be ready. And that's OK! It's always better to wait than to pressure children to take a step they don't understand. We want their baptism to be meaningful to them.
- Ask questions to prompt them to tell you what they understand. Do they understand who Jesus is? Do they understand what Jesus has done for them? Do they understand what it means to be saved? Then, ask them to explain their understanding of what baptism is. Are they personally and independently choosing to follow Jesus for themselves? If so, celebrate with them and ask if they would like to be baptized.
- Emphasize that baptism is a celebration of their decision to follow Jesus and that it is a time to come together as a church family to support and encourage one another.

## Why Do People Get Baptized in Water?

Here are some things that you can say about baptism to help your child understand what it is about:

Getting baptized is a way to show on the outside what God has already done on the inside.

When you trust Jesus and believe He forgives your sins, you are already saved. Baptism doesn't save you-Jesus saves you. Baptism is like saying, "I belong to Jesus now!"

Think about it like this if you love someone, you don't keep it a secret - you want people to know. Baptism is a way to tell everyone, "I believe in Jesus, and I want to follow Him."

When you go under the water, it's like showing:

- your old life without Jesus is gone
- and when you come back up, it shows your new life with Jesus has begun and God has washed all your sins away



Jesus Himself was baptized, even though He never sinned. He did it to show us what following God looks like. Because of that, every Christian should want to be baptized-not because they must, but because they want to obey Jesus and follow Him.

So, baptism is:

- not what saves you
- not something that will make God love you more- God will be happy for you, but He already loves you fully
- but a joyful way to show others, "I believe in Jesus, and I want to follow Him with my whole life."

After explaining what baptism is and why we as Christians get baptized to your child, ask them questions to see if they understand its meaning.

## Some Bible Verses on Baptism

### Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

*(Jesus was baptized, not because he was a sinner, but because it served as an example of what we should do.)*

### Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*(The apostles were commanded to baptize disciples of Jesus.)*

## Should Babies be Baptized

There is no mention of infants being baptized in the Bible. The word of God was spoken to all who were baptized, leading us to believe the hearers understood. In fact, there is no example in the New Testament of baptism when the candidate did not request it. (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48; 16:30-33). So, while the church may do baby dedications where we



pray over babies and charge the parents to raise their children up to know and love God, we don't baptize them. We wait until they have asked Jesus to forgive them of their sins and want to be baptized.

## Conclusion

As parents, it is important to support and encourage your children as they navigate this decision. By explaining what baptism is, its significance, and encouraging your children to make the decision on their own, you can help them take this important step in their faith journey. If your child indicates that they would like to be baptized, and you feel they are ready, speak to one of the ministers at the church to schedule a time for them to be baptized.