

Baptism Pathway

This pathway is designed to help students and parents clearly understand **what baptism is, who baptism is for, and how a student takes the next step at Concord Baptist Church**. Our prayer is that baptism would be a joyful, thoughtful, and meaningful step of obedience flowing from a student's personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Step 1: Conversations at Home

Talking to Your Student About Baptism

As parents, you are the primary spiritual influence in your student's life. Conversations about baptism are important moments God uses to shape faith, but they can feel overwhelming at first. The goal isn't to rush the decision—it's to walk with your student as they seek to follow Jesus.

How to approach the conversation:

- **Facilitate, don't dominate.** Encourage your student to ask questions and share their thoughts. Listen more than you speak.
- **Be patient.** Following Jesus is not a race. Baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation, but it's okay if your student isn't ready yet. Waiting is better than pressuring a step they don't fully understand.
- **Remember whose faith this is.** As parents, we naturally want what's best for our students. But baptism is about *their* personal faith, not ours. Decisions they make for themselves will shape their walk with Christ for a lifetime.

What Baptism Is (and Is Not)

Use Scripture to help explain baptism over one or several conversations:

- **Baptism is commanded by Jesus** and is a demonstration of obedience and faith.
(*Matthew 28:19–20; Colossians 2:11–12; 1 John 2:3*)
- **Baptism always follows repentance and faith** in the Bible.
(*Acts 2:37–38, 41*)
- **Scripture shows believer's baptism.** In the New Testament, those who were baptized heard and responded to the gospel themselves. There is no example of baptism apart from personal faith.
(*Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47–48; 16:30–33*)
- **Baptism does not save.** Salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus alone. Baptism is a public expression of an inward change that has already taken place.
(*Romans 10:9; 1 Peter 3:18–21*)

Baptism is an outward declaration of an inward decision—identifying with Jesus and His death, burial, and resurrection.

Helpful Questions to Ask Your Student

- Who is Jesus, and what has He done for you?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- What do you think baptism represents?
- Are you choosing to follow Jesus personally and independently?

If your student can clearly express their faith and understanding, celebrate that! Then ask if they feel ready to take the step of baptism.

Step 2: Ready to Be Baptized?

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, baptism is your next step of obedience—whether you were saved years ago or recently.

What baptism means:

- Baptism is not required for salvation, but it is the first step of obedience for every believer.
- Baptism does not save anyone—Jesus saves.
- Baptism is a picture of what Jesus has already done in a believer's heart.
- Illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:3–4*)
- Shows our new life in Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- Declares publicly that we belong to Jesus

A helpful way to think about baptism is like a wedding ring—it doesn't create the relationship, but it shows that the relationship already exists.

We also follow Jesus' example. He was baptized (*Mark 1:9*) and commands His followers to be baptized (*Matthew 28:19–20*).

How We Baptize at Concord

At Concord Baptist Church, we baptize by **immersion**. This reflects the biblical example and the meaning of the word *baptize*, which means to immerse or dip under water.

Step 3: Baptism Class (Quarterly)

Students who believe they are ready for baptism will attend a Baptism Class, offered quarterly on Sunday morning during the second worship service.

In this class, students will:

- Learn what baptism is and why it matters

- Hear the gospel clearly explained
- Understand what will happen on baptism day
- Have the opportunity to ask questions in a safe, supportive environment

Parents are encouraged to be involved and continue conversations at home following the class.

Step 4: Meet with the Student Pastor

After the Baptism Class, the student (and parents, when appropriate) will connect with the Student Pastor to:

- Hear the student's personal testimony
- Confirm understanding of the gospel and baptism
- Schedule baptism during an upcoming worship service

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Step 5: Baptism Sunday – Celebrate!

Baptism is a celebration! On Baptism Sunday, students will publicly declare their faith before the church family. This is a meaningful moment where the church celebrates, encourages, and commits to supporting students as they continue to grow in Christ.

Our Heart as a Church

Our desire is not simply to see students baptized, but to see students saved, grounded in the gospel, and joyfully walking in obedience to Jesus. We are grateful to partner with parents as God continues His work in the lives of students at Concord.