

Understanding Baptism



Children's Ministry of Journey Christian Church

From the Children's Director

Hey there!

I'm really excited that you're asking about baptism. That's a big and awesome step! Getting baptized means you believe in Jesus and want to follow Him for the rest of your life. This packet will help you learn some important things from the Bible so you can understand what baptism is all about.

And guess what—there's no pressure. If you don't feel ready yet, that's totally okay. God knows you, He understands you, and He'll help you make the right choice at the right time. Just talk to Him, be honest, and trust that He's got everything under control.

This is a really exciting moment in your life. Take your time reading through the packet and answering the questions. You'll need your Bible, something to write with, and maybe some crayons. Try to find a quiet spot where you can think and pray. You can do a little bit each day.

And if you ever need help or have questions, I'm here for you. I'd love to help however I can. God bless you!

Sincerely,
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Part 1: Baptism



What Happens When You Are Baptized?

Baptism is when someone who believes in Jesus is put under water “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19), and brought up out of the water to “walk in a new life”. This is usually done in front of the church family as an example of faith.

The questions that are asked at baptism are:

- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for your sins?
- Do you accept Him as your personal Lord and Savior?

Activity:

- The Bible says that when you are baptized, you receive a special gift from God. Look up Acts 2:38. What is the gift that you receive?

What Does It All Mean?

The words “walk in a new life” probably sound strange to you. After you are baptized, you have a new life. That means, that you no longer live for yourself. You have a new life that you live for Jesus. When we go down into the water of baptism, it is to represent the “dying” of our old life. When we are baptized, we bury our old lives in the water. When we are raised back up out of the water, it represents our new way of life. Jesus was raised from the dead, and we are raised from baptism to live our lives for Him, until we see Him again in Heaven.

Activity:

- Describe, in your own words, what baptism means to you.
- Talk to a friend who has been baptized and ask them what it was like. Write down their answer.

“You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”
Mark 1:11

Part 2: Our Need

Our Sin

God gives everyone the choice to obey or disobey Him. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey Him in the Garden of Eden, they were disciplined by God. He made them leave the Garden, and they would no longer live forever. We make choices about our behavior all the time.

Sometimes we make the wrong choices and disobey God. That's what sin is – choosing to do what God doesn't want us to do.

Activity:

- Read Romans 3:23. Who sins?
- What are sins? Write down some examples of sin.



There is a time in everyone's life when they understand what is right and what is wrong. This is known as the "age of accountability". It is at this age that you become responsible for the choices that you make. That's a big responsibility. When you are young, your parents usually are responsible for any consequences your choices may have. In your relationship with God, when you decide you're ready to make a commitment to Him and be baptized, you're saying that you're ready to accept responsibility for your choices. How do we know what the right choices are? The Bible is like our instruction manual. The Bible has all the instructions we need in our lives. No matter how good we try to be, everyone makes mistakes (remember Romans 3:23). We can avoid many mistakes by following God's plan and guidelines for living.

"This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matthew 6:9 -13



What Does Sin Do?

Sin separates us from God. Because God is perfect and Holy, He cannot be with us because we have sinned. The Bible says in Romans 6:23 that because we have sinned, we will die, just like Adam and Eve and not live forever.

But, thankfully, that is not the end of the story. God has always had a plan. Because He does not want to be separated from us, he sent Jesus to be our “Savior”. That means that Jesus can save us. He died for our sins on the cross so that we can be forgiven and God can accept us. That is why He is called our “Redeemer”. He buys us back from judgment for our sins.

Jesus died on the cross a long time ago, but it wasn’t just for the people at that time. He knew you would need Him some day as well. From the cross, Jesus could see you and the choices you have made. When He was dying on the cross, He was dying for your mistakes. We aren’t perfect, but Jesus made it possible to be reconnected with God.

Activity:

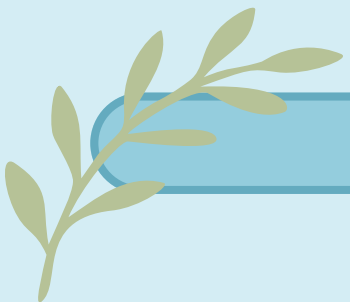
Read John 3:16.

- What does it mean to perish?
- What do we need to do so that we don’t perish?

Activity:

The Ten Commandments are a good place to start to find out some of God’s rules for our lives. Read Exodus 20:1-17. Pick one commandment and draw a picture of it on a blank sheet of paper.





Part 3: The Next Step



Repentance

Repentance is one of the most important parts of making a commitment to God and being baptized. It means being sorry for the wrong things we have done and making the effort to try and never do them again. We aren't perfect, and it's hard to make the right choices all the time. We can't do it on our own, but we can with Jesus' help. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Look at this list of the Ten Commandments for reference.

- You shall have no other gods before me.
- You shouldn't care about money more than God.
- You shall not make idols and worship them.
- You shouldn't worry a lot about your appearance.
- You shall not misuse God's name.
- You shouldn't joke about God or prayer. (Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy)
- You should make Church and worshipping God a priority.
- Honor your father and mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shouldn't gossip or spread rumors to hurt people
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not lie.
- You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" Psalm 119:11



Activity:

- What sins have you committed that you need to repent? Write it on a blank sheet of paper.

After:

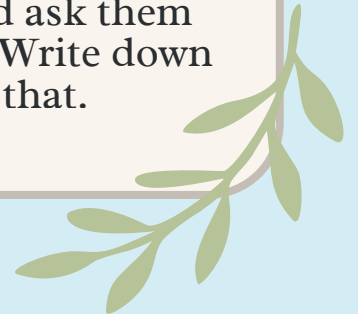
If you are truly sorry, say a prayer right now and tell God you're sorry for those sins and ask for His forgiveness. Make a commitment to Him in prayer to stop making bad choices.

One of the names we use for Jesus is “Lord”. The dictionary says that a lord is a master, or ruler; the one in charge. That means we are going to let Him be in control of our life. Use Jesus as your example and the Bible as your guidebook as you try to make the right choices.



Activity:

Read Matthew 5:23-24. This is a good example of how we must make our relationships right with other people before we can have a right relationship with God. Many times when we sin, we hurt someone we care about. For example, if I lied to my mom, that hurts and upsets her. It is a good idea, as part of repentance, to apologize to anyone that our sin may have hurt. Think of someone you have hurt by sinning and go apologize to them and ask them for their forgiveness. Write down what it was like to do that.





Part 4: Salvation

What is Salvation?

Because of our sin, we die. When we die, we either have “Eternal Life” in Heaven with God, or we go to Hell, to be in “Eternal Punishment”. Salvation is when we are saved from having to go to Hell. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.”

Activity:

Read John 3:36. How can we have Eternal Life?

Believing In Jesus

Many people believe the Jesus lived and was a good man, and a good example of how to treat other people. We need to believe that Jesus is God’s son, and that He died for our sins and rose again.

Activity:

Read Matthew 26:63-64, 1 John 4:9 and John 3:16. Who does the Bible say Jesus is?

Activity:

Read Matthew 28:1-10.

- Is this a cool story or do you believe this really happened? How could something so unbelievable happen?

Some people think that there are many ways to be saved.

Read Acts 4:12.

- How many ways are there to be saved?

Read John 20:2-10 and Matthew 28:11-15.

- What do you believe happened to Jesus?



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



Part 5: Making Your Decision

Personally

The first way we follow Jesus is by asking Him into our hearts. Just like our heart helps our whole body, we ask Jesus to help us with every part of our life. This is a very special choice that is just between you and God.

If you understand these things and feel ready to make good choices, think about these questions:

- Accepting Jesus — Do you want to ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?
- Your relationship with God — How close do you feel to God right now?
- Making a commitment — Are you ready to promise to follow Him?

You can talk about these questions with a grown-up who loves Jesus, or think about them on your own.



Publicly

Baptism is how we show everyone the private choice we made to follow Jesus. The Bible says in Acts 2:38 that we should repent and be baptized, and that God gives us the Holy Spirit. Jesus showed us what to do by being baptized Himself, even though He never sinned. Acts 2:39 says this promise is for you, your family, and everyone God calls.

Now read Matthew 3:13–17.

What was God's response to Jesus' baptism? God was pleased with Jesus and said, "This is my Son, whom I love." The Holy Spirit came down like a dove, showing that God approved of Jesus and His choice to be baptized.

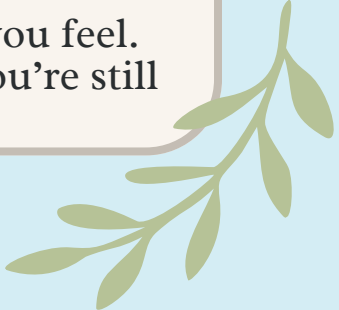
Galatians 2:27 says, "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." The things you do should be the kinds of things Jesus would do. If you are ready for the responsibility, you are ready to be baptized.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24

Activity:

You will meet with a Pastor or our Children's Director to talk about baptism. You can ask them anything you want—like what happens, what the baptistery looks like, or how people get baptized. If you've never seen a baptism before, we can show you a video so you know what it looks like.

After your meeting, take a blank piece of paper and draw or write how you feel. You can share what you learned, what made you excited, or anything you're still wondering about.



Important Definitions

Baptism - immersion; a person who wants to publicly proclaim their commitment to Christ by following his example of baptism

Holy Spirit - promised by Jesus, the Holy Spirit brings us to faith, helps us to understand our walk with God, and guides us in the truth and shows us when we're wrong

Lord - a person having great power and authority; ruler; master

Savior - a person who rescues others from evil, danger or destruction

Discipline - to train by instruction and control

Sin - Not doing what God commands or doing what God commands us not to do

Accountability - Awareness that we answer to God for our thoughts, words & actions

Responsible - able to be trusted to act correctly on your own, without someone telling you

Choice - the power to decide between different things

Consequences - what happens as a result of a choice made

Holy - without evil, perfect

Redeem - to rescue, to buy back from sin

Judgment - God separating those who trusted Jesus from those who haven't at end times

Perish - to die

Commandment - a law

Repentance - turning away from sin and turning toward God

Idols - something used as an object of worship; a false God

Honor - to respect or think highly of something or someone.

Adultery - loving someone besides your husband or wife in a married way

Covet - really wanting something that belongs to someone else

Salvation - being saved from sin and punishment

Eternal Life - the life we will have that lasts forever after our life on earth is over

Heaven - the dwelling place of God that will be our new home after our life on earth

Hell - the place of punishment that lasts forever for people who don't follow God

Wages - what you get paid for what you have done

Believe - to trust as the truth

