



an explanation  
of **baptism**  
for children



Energizing the next generation to  
love God, love others & make disciples.

Dear Parents & Children,

In this baptism guide you will find answers to some questions that you may have about baptism. Also, children will have a place to write down their own faith story.

## what is baptism?

Baptism is a picture of the Gospel—helping us to understand that in Christ we have died and been raised to life. He is our only hope for salvation.

Baptism is one of two ordinances, or special ceremonies that Jesus gave His followers to do. The other ordinance is communion.

In baptism, we go under the water (immersion) in the baptism tank or a lake. It is a picture, or symbol, of our love and belief in Jesus. By being baptized we are identifying with Jesus, His message and His people.

## why be baptized?

- Jesus told us to be baptized, so we should obey Him. Matthew 28:18-20
- Jesus Himself was baptized, so we should follow His example. Matthew 3:13-17
- Baptism is a biblical way of showing others we have become a Christian and follower of Jesus.

## who should be baptized?

Anyone may be baptized as long as they can clearly express their faith in Jesus and understand what baptism means.

Don't be in a rush to get baptized too young. Let God work on your heart. We recognize that it is the parents job to clarify the Gospel of Salvation and baptism for their children. We don't want to baptize them if they don't really understand these matters lest we confuse them for years to come.

People who have trusted Jesus as their Savior and want to live for Him should be baptized.

- Someone who should be able to explain what baptism means and why they want to do it.
- Someone who should also be able to tell about when they trusted Jesus.
- Someone who trusts in Jesus alone as their personal Savior (not just know about Jesus or be a fan of Jesus.)
- Someone who understands the biblical reasons for baptism including...  
Ephesians 2:8-9

- Someone who understands that “asking Jesus into your heart” is not sufficient... each of us needs to repent and put our faith and trust in Jesus as our only hope for salvation.
- Someone who is currently living a lifestyle that is consistent with what the Bible teaches. This does not imply that perfection or maturity in Christ is required. But if one’s heart and actions are not reflecting faith and commitment to Jesus, perhaps it is not the right time for baptism.

***Read in the book of Acts in the Bible about many people who believed in Jesus and then were baptized:***

- Men, women and Simon in Acts 8:12-13
- The Ethiopian man in Acts 8:26-39
- Saul in Acts 9:1-18
- Lydia in Acts 16:14-15
- The jailer in Acts 16:28-34
- Many Corinthians in Acts 18:8

# review

*What is baptism?*

*Why should we be baptized?*

*Who should be baptized?*

# my faith story

*Who were some people that introduced you to Jesus?*

*How did they do this?*

***Do you remember the day you trusted Jesus as your Savior?***

***How old were you?***

***Where were you?***

***Who was with you?***

***Why did you decide to trust Jesus?***



***What did you tell God in your prayer?***

***Who are some people that are helping you grow [right now] in your relationship with Jesus? How?***

***Who are 2-3 people you are currently praying for to come to know Jesus as their Savior?***

***Why do you want to be baptized?***

***What special Bible verse would you like to share at your baptism?***

***List the names of the people you would like to invite to your baptism:***

**My Story of Coming to Faith in Jesus**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

||

# what happens before baptism?

1. The child AND parent will attend the Family Life Waypoint called BASICS.
2. The child goes through the baptism booklet at home with his or her parents.
3. The child and parent visit with someone on the pastoral staff at church or at the Waypoint: BASICS to talk about the child's faith and Oakwood's baptism procedures.
4. The family decides when to be baptized and who to invite.
5. The family discusses whom they would like to baptize the child. Of course this would be someone who loves the Lord and follows him wholeheartedly. This may include: a pastor, a ministry director, a Sunday School leader, your dad, mom or a family friend.

# what happens at baptism?

1. Those being baptized will meet with one of the pastoral staff on the day of the baptism to walk through the procedure. If the baptism is during a worship service it typically occurs near the beginning.
2. We encourage you to give a few words of testimony if you would like to do so. You, or the person baptizing you, can share your Faith Story from this booklet or a favorite Bible verse.
3. You will be provided with a dark colored baptism t-shirt to be baptized in and for you to keep to commemorate this significant step in your life. We ask your cooperation in the following to make sure there are no distractions:
  - Pants (not jeans) or longer shorts are appropriate
  - A shirt to wear under the t-shirt we provide is appropriate
  - Barefoot or water shoes are fine as well
  - Bring a plastic bag for wet clothing, a set of dry clothes, a towel and any other personal aids (hair dryer, etc.) to assist you
  - You may want to remove jewelry

notes





Energizing the next generation to  
love God, love others & make disciples.