

Talking to Children about Baptism

What Is Baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament, a *visible outward sign of God's invisible inward grace*. Baptism is an outward testimony of what happened in your heart when you choose to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The word baptism literally means “to be washed.” But it comes from the Greek root word *bapto*, which means “to be dipped” or “marked.” When you get baptized, you get dipped in water, and you come up out of the water marked by your new life with Christ!

Why Should I Be Baptized?

Through baptism we are marked as followers of Jesus.

We believe God sent Jesus to this earth to show us how much God loves us and to bring healing to our broken and sinful world. When we confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are forgiven and saved from sin, which separates us from God and from one another. Jesus will show us how to live life as His faithful followers. Jesus asked us to be baptized, and because He, too, was baptized, we follow Jesus into the water! Baptism tells others that we belong to Jesus Christ and God's Church.

When you are baptized, it is into the waters of baptism that millions of people have been baptized in before you! You are entering into the mosaic that is the Kingdom of God! You are connected to all the other brothers and sisters around the world, past, present, and future, who find their identity in Jesus Christ.

What Does Baptism Look Like?

Often, baptism of children and adults is done by going completely under water for a very brief moment and coming back up (the pastor helps lower you down and raise you up). You can also be baptized by getting sprinkled with water or having water poured over your head. Baptisms can take place in a church baptismal, a swimming pool, a lake, a river, or really any body of water. The important thing is that you get baptized in community, surrounded by family and friends.

Participating in baptism is like God wrapping you in a big, giant “faith” coat. Galatians 3:27 says, “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Baptism marks the beginning of your growth as a believer in God's son, Jesus – never again without the coat. The coat is really big, and you may not know everything that it means, but you will grow into it.

When Can I Get Baptized?

It is good to get baptized when you recognize that Jesus is the leader of your life and you want to follow Him forever. Maybe you prayed with your parents or another adult, asking God to forgive you for sinning. Or maybe you just realize that you love Jesus and want to live your life for Him always, and you know that Jesus is God's Son and believe He died for you. These are all signs it is a good time to be baptized. Talk to your parents or an adult you trust who loves Jesus about being baptized.

How Do I Get Baptized?

You and your parents can talk to a pastor or Quest Kids staff person. At Quest we do baptism services several times a year. You will meet with the Kids and Family Pastor to prepare for the baptism service and learn how to share your testimony, which is the story of why you love Jesus and how you came to faith.

What If I Was Baptized as a Baby?

We practice both infant baptism and believer baptism. If you were baptized as an infant, you are already marked with the sign and seal of the new covenant, of new life in Jesus (this means your parents prayed for the day you would recognize you are God's child). Once you have been baptized, you do not need to be re-baptized. You can take the Discipleship/Confirmation Class as a teenager to learn more about being a follower of Jesus and sharing your testimony of faith with others.

What's Next?

Just as God sent Jesus to earth, when Jesus returned to Heaven after His death and resurrection, He promised to send us a helper. That helper is the Holy Spirit. As a new believer, you are baptized in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead you, guide you, and give you strength to live as Jesus lived – to pursue all people, to love kindness, to have compassion for others, and to walk with humility (to put others before yourself).

Read these suggested passages together:

- Ephesians 4:4-6
- Acts 2:38-39
- Matthew 28:19
- Matthew 3:13-16
- 2 Corinthians 5:17