

TALKING ABOUT BAPTISM



START HERE

If your child has made a decision to trust and follow Jesus and is ready to take their next step of faith, this guide is for you. Our hope is to help clarify what baptism is and is not in order to give you the tools you need to talk to your child about taking their faith public.

BAPTISM IS...

A SYMBOL.

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward decision that someone has made to follow Jesus. It is a way to identify with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection and the forgiveness of sins offered through it.

A STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Jesus was baptized, and at the end of his earthly ministry commanded us to go, make disciples, and baptize others. Baptism is a way to follow in Jesus' example and be obedient to his command.

A PUBLIC CELEBRATION

Baptism provides an opportunity to show and tell others about faith in Jesus. This allows for the church to celebrate together all that God has done in the life of a believer.

BAPTISM IS NOT...

NECESSARY FOR SALVATION

The Bible tells us that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ and faith alone. That means that no additional works or actions, including Baptism, have any power to save us.

WHAT FORGIVES SINS

It is important to understand that baptism is symbolic, and doesn't literally "wash away sins" or make someone "clean". Only a relationship with Jesus can do those things.

A RITE OF PASSAGE

Baptism isn't a faith tradition tied to an age or stage of life and doesn't have to happen at a particular time.

KIDS AND BAPTISM

WHO SHOULD GET BAPTIZED?

Anyone who has put their trust in Jesus and accepted the gift of salvation through faith should be baptized. This means that infants or small children who haven't been able to make that decision on their own should wait to be baptized.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE GET BAPTIZED?

Baptism is a way for someone to display publicly a decision they've made to follow Jesus. It is a step of obedience to follow Jesus' command and show others what He has done for us. For kids, this means it is important that their motivation to be baptized matches the heart and purpose of why people should be baptized.

WHEN SHOULD SOMEONE GET BAPTIZED?

There is no right or wrong time to get baptized, as long as a person has put their faith in Jesus and is ready to share that decision publicly. For kids, this means that they should be able to passionately and confidently express their faith before getting baptized. Baptism should only take place once, and because it is symbolic in nature, there may be wisdom in allowing kids to wait in order to better understand the decision they are making.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM LOOK LIKE?

The root of the word for baptism in scripture means "to dip" or "to immerse" and is evidenced by the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. Baptism by immersion, or under the water, follows in Jesus' example and symbolizes death, burial, and resurrection into a new life.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:

Why do you want to get baptized?

Why do people get baptized?

What does baptism symbolize?

Do you feel like you have to be baptized? Why?

What did Jesus' baptism look like?

When is the right time to be baptized?

NEXT STEPS:

If your child has made a decision to follow and trust Jesus, we are celebrating with you and want to help him or her take their first steps of faith. You can reach out to us with questions by emailing children@sevierheights.org.

