

Baptism – Is my child ready to be baptized?

Three questions your child should be able to answer if they are ready are:

1. Have I made a decision to follow Jesus? A follower of Christ receives forgiveness by faith and believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Am I ready to share my decision with our church community?
3. Do I know what baptism means?

Common Questions on Baptism

- 1) What is baptism?

Baptism is a public announcement of your faith in Jesus Christ. Following a person's salvation, he or she will decide to go before the church community to be baptized in water as an outward sign of an inward decision to follow Jesus. Baptism is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in the "new life". You are showing others that God has changed your life and forgiven your sins (all the bad stuff that we do). Going under the water is a symbol that represents the washing away of our sins. When we come up out of the water, it's a symbol that we are new again and born again in Christ. Baptism does not save us from sins, Jesus does! Baptism is a reminder of our wonderful decision to become a follower of Jesus.

- 2) Why do we Baptize?

We baptize to follow Jesus' example. (Luke 3:21-22) Jesus was baptized as an example of obedience to this important act. And now, we are baptized to follow his example.

- 3) Who can be Baptized?

Anyone can be baptized after receiving God's gift of salvation. The Bible makes reference several times in the New Testament to those who first, acknowledged their sins and asked for forgiveness (received the gift of salvation) and then were baptized. (Matthew 3:6 & Acts 2:38)

We are so excited that your child is considering baptism. Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and in TLC Kidz Park, we encourage each child to make a decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged not just to learn about Jesus, but to learn from Him by walking with Him every day. We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait until their child is entering the first grade or later before baptism.

I hope these video resources on Baptism will be helpful.

<https://youtu.be/29ipPg2y-K0>

<https://youtu.be/u33Zd0g7i1c>

What Does God's Word Say About Baptism?

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

*"And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River."
Matthew 3:6*

"Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes." Galatians 3:26-27

What is a True Follower of Christ?

- **Born Again.** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" John 3:3. This is the first qualification to become a follower of Jesus. We must confess and repent of our sins, by faith receive God's forgiveness, surrender our lives to Christ as our Saviour and Lord, and start walking in His ways.
- **Spends Time with God Daily.** "It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray and He spent the whole night in prayer to God" Luke 6:12. Prayer and reading God's Word are very important as we get to know God and grow in our relationship with Him. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5.
- **Grows in Faith.** "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him" Hebrews 11:6. "What do you mean, If I can?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes" Mark 9:23. "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see" Hebrews 11:1.

- **Obeys God’s Word.** “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life” John 8:12. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” John 14:15.
- **Love Others.** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” Mark 12:30. Wholehearted love for Christ affects what we think and watch and do, and especially how we love others. “Love one another, as I have loved you” John 15:12.
- **Tell Others.** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” Matthew 28:19. We don’t want anyone to spend eternity in hell. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, will not die but have everlasting life” John 3:16. Followers of Christ tell others about what Jesus has done for them.
- **Serve Others.** Jesus explains in Mark 10:35-45, that he “came as the Son of man to give his life as ransom...for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...in the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16.

If your child has answered “YES” to the three questions at the beginning of the first page, then your child is ready to be baptized. We are so excited that your child has made this commitment to become a follower of Jesus!

1. I have made a commitment to follow Jesus.
2. I am ready to share my decision with my church family.
3. I understand what baptism means.

Please email me with any questions: Alison.folwell@thelambschapel.org

I look forward to hearing from you. Mrs. Alison.