

## Help your child understand what Baptism is...



- **Baptism is an OUTSIDE SYMBOL of an INSIDE DECISION.**

Just like a wedding ring is worn to show on the outside an important heart decision someone made on the inside, baptism shows the world that you have made a heart decision to love and follow Jesus. Getting baptized does not make you a Christian, but tells everyone that you are a Christian.

- **Baptism is a symbol of Christ's DEATH and RESURRECTION.**

Christ died to pay the punishment for your sins. When you get lowered into the water it shows that you want to die to your old life of sin. Christ conquered death and came back to life. When you get raised out of the water it shows that you have a new life in Christ and will live forever with Him!

*"Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." - Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)*

- **Baptism is telling people your decision to say YES to Jesus.**

Saying YES to Jesus is about truly believing in your heart that Jesus died to pay the punishment for your sins, putting your complete trust in Him to forgive all your sins, and then committing to follow Jesus as the leader of your life. We often use A.B.C. to show children what it means to become a Christian.

**A - Admit** that you are a sinner and have made mistakes you are truly sorry for. *See Romans 3:23*

**B - Believe** Jesus can save you because He died in your place to pay the punishment for all your sins. *See Romans 5:8*

**C - Choose** to respond to what Jesus did for you by receiving His forgiveness and committing to follow Him as the leader of your life. *See John 1:12*

- **Baptism does NOT wash away your sins.**

Because water is involved, it is natural for many to think that baptism is the way our sins get washed away. Scripture is very clear that baptism is not needed for salvation.

*"And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 3:21 (NLT)*

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## Five reasons why Christians should be baptized...

**1. Jesus COMMANDED IT!** *"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 28:19 (NLT)*

**2. Jesus DID IT!** *"Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John." - Matthew 3:13 (NLT)*

**3. Jesus' DISCIPLES DID IT!** *"Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized." - Acts 16:33b (NLT)*

**4. Chance to TELL others you are on God's team!** *"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." - Matthew 10:32 (NLT)*

**5. Chance to CELEBRATE your New Life in Christ!** *"There is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents" - Luke 15:10b (NLT)*

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## Frequently Asked Questions...

**What if my child was already baptized as an infant?** Parents baptize infants to show their desire for their child to grow to follow Jesus. However, it should be the child's decision if and when they get baptized to show the world they are now following Jesus. For this reason, it is perfectly fine for a child to be baptized again as a believer.

**Why don't you baptize infants like other churches do?** While infants are baptized in certain Christian churches, We does not adopt this tradition. Scripture does not contain any command or example for baptizing anyone who cannot tell people that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. For more information about parents dedicating their young children to the Lord, please contact us about our Child Dedication services.

**When is my child old enough to get baptized?** Baptism is for those who understand and have responded to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is also important that children understand the rich symbolism of baptism. For those reasons, many children should wait until they are 3rd grade or older before being baptized. A good indicator that your child is ready for baptism is they were the ones who initiated the desire to be baptized and they are old enough to remember and appreciate the ceremony when they are an adult.