

BAPTISM

GUIDE FOR KIDS

WELCOME!

Baptism is an exciting next step that we get to take on our journey with Jesus, and we're so excited your child is ready to discover more about it! Our hope is that this guide is a resource for you as you have conversations with your kid at home about baptism.

As you process this step with your child, we want to encourage you that they are on their own unique journey with Jesus. Because this is such an exciting step, it's easy to want to rush it. But it's important for them to wait until they fully understand what it means and why we do it. We trust that God is guiding you to help them determine when it's time for them to take this next step, and we're here to partner with you along the way.

TALKING ABOUT BAPTISM

As you talk with your child about baptism, here is the “who, what, when, why, and how” you can explore.

WHO GETS BAPTIZED?

- Anyone who has received salvation can be baptized. We’re all in need of salvation! The Bible tells us in Romans 10 that we receive salvation when we declare with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- Baptism is a public declaration that Jesus is Lord of your life. It’s an outward picture of an inward change that has already begun. It’s important to help your child understand that baptism isn’t salvation; baptism happens after salvation. Like 2 Corinthians 5 tells us, when we receive salvation, our old life is gone, and we have a new life with Jesus. Baptism is a celebration of that!

WHEN CAN WE BE BAPTIZED?

- Baptism comes after salvation. It’s a next step that we take after receiving Jesus’ forgiveness and making Him Lord of our life. We see this modeled all throughout the Bible, specifically in Acts 2 when thousands of people hear the good news of Jesus, receive salvation, and get baptized. Remember, there isn’t a “right” age to be baptized; many people are baptized at all different ages. What’s important is that they fully understand the decision they are making.

WHY DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

- We get baptized because we’re following Jesus’ example. When Jesus is Lord of our life, we follow where He leads. And Jesus Himself actually got baptized! We can see Jesus’ example of baptism in the Bible. Check it out in Matthew 3, it says:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Jesus got baptized, publicly declaring that God was who He was following. As disciples of Jesus, we get to follow His example and get baptized, too!

HOW DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

Again, we follow Jesus’ example! When we get baptized, we go all the way under the water, showing people that Jesus died for us. Then, we come right back up out of the water, showing people that Jesus didn’t stay dead – He is alive, and in Him we have a new life.

IS YOUR CHILD READY?

So, now that you know a bit more about baptism, how do you know if your child is ready to get baptized?

First, because baptism always comes after salvation, it's important to determine if your child has declared that Jesus is Lord of their life and believes in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Here are some great questions to ask to start that conversation at home along with an example of what their answer might sound like. Remember, it's important that your kids answer in their own words:

WHO IS JESUS, AND WHAT DID HE DO FOR YOU?

- Jesus is God's Son that came to make a way for me to be in God's family forever. He died on the cross for me, but He didn't stay dead. God brought Him back to life three days later!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT JESUS IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE?

- It means that Jesus is the leader of my heart and all of my life. I don't choose what I want to do on my own, but I'm choosing to follow Jesus and what He wants for me.

It's also important to make sure your child understands the reason we get baptized. We don't get baptized because we turn a certain age - there's no right age to be baptized. We don't get baptized because our friend or sibling is getting baptized - we're each on our own unique journey with Jesus. We also don't get baptized to please our parents, God, or anyone else - in Jesus, we're already God's beloved son or daughter, in whom He is well pleased. There's nothing we need to do to earn His love.

Baptism is a next step that your child gets to take when they want to follow Jesus' example and publicly declare that He is Lord of their life. If your child is talking about wanting to get baptized, a great question to ask is:

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

- I'm excited about following Jesus and want to get baptized just like He did!

Baptism is one of many exciting next steps on your child's journey with Jesus - and that journey is not a race! There's no reason to rush your child to get baptized before they are ready. We hope this gives you some great conversation starters at home as you and your kid are leaning into Jesus and asking Him when the right time is to take the next step of baptism.

NEXT STEPS

If you don't feel your child is ready to be baptized for any reason, that's okay! Continue to have these conversations at home and encourage them on their journey with Jesus.

If you have any questions or feel your child is ready to attend a Kids Baptism class, reach out to the Kids Director at your campus or send an email to kids@valleycreek.org. We love your family, and we're here to partner with you!

You can stay connected with everything happening in Valley Creek Kids by texting **"KIDS"** to **55888**.

For Valley Creek Kids resources, content, music, and more, check out valleycreek.plus.



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