

Water Baptism for Children

We are so excited that you are considering baptism for your child. It should be a wonderful marker in the spiritual development of your child(ren). Our children are encouraged to not just learn about Jesus, but learn from Jesus 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 it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children certainly can be saved, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of baptism at a younger age, so we encourage parents to wait until they are a little older. In this regard, each child is different.

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child:

1. Why do you want to be water baptized?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *Because Jesus was and he tells us to also; Because I'm saved and I want to follow Him.*

2. What does it mean to be water baptized?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *It means I'm following Jesus; It means I'm a Christian and I want to show the world; It's a picture of what Jesus has done on the inside of me.*

3. When did you receive Jesus and the forgiveness of your sins (born- again, saved)?

Answers that indicate your child understands: *Your child should have a specific memory of when he understood what Jesus did for him and that he needs a Savior. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when he was alone.*

Your Child Is Ready:

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then go through this devotional explaining more about water baptism.

Your Child Is Not Ready:

If you don't feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. Remember, water baptism does not save— that is done by your child receiving Jesus. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. Go through this devotional with your child and encourage them in their growth in Christ.

Water Baptism Devotional I'm Getting Baptized Obeying Jesus' Commandment

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take as a disciple of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did and He told us to also.

When you became a disciple of Jesus, you were brought out of the devil's kingdom and put into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you've decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too.

Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13- 17.

➔ What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?

An Outward Picture

Colossians 2:12

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Water baptism is a beautiful outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to be your Savior, there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you were saved. (I Corinthians 12:13)

That's why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you do) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

➔ What is water baptism a picture of?

MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Romans 6:4

By being baptized, we were buried with Christ (Jesus) into his death. Christ (Jesus) has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ (Jesus) we can also live a new life.

Water baptism does not save you. It is a proclamation and picture that Jesus has saved you. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you are baptized in water, you proclaim your new heart's desire to follow Him all the days of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your Christ's great work of salvation on your behalf.