

BAPTISM

When a person gets baptized, it means they've made an important decision – a decision to follow Jesus Christ. We are excited that you want to make this decision and want to help you understand why it's so important. Here are a few things we'd like for you to talk through with your parents or your small group leader before being baptized.

Salvation

Getting baptized is a way to show that we've decided to follow Jesus in our lives, and the first step towards following Jesus is accepting Him as our Savior. Read the verses below together and answer the questions that follow:

God is a good and loving God - Read John 3:16. In what ways would you say that God is loving and good according to this verse?

Everyone has done bad things – Romans 3:23 tells us that we all “fall short of the glory of God,” which means we've all sinned and we continue to sin. What are some examples of things that are sin?

The wages of sin is death

When we do bad things, why can't God just forgive us? Romans 6:23 tells us that sin leads to death. God is a just God, which means He can't ignore or forget when we do bad things, and that all sins must be punished.

Jesus died for our sins

In Romans 5:8 and John 3:16, we learn that God loves us so much that He gave His son to die for us – Jesus took the blame for the bad things we've done. Instead of being punished for our sins, God allowed His son Jesus to be punished in our place.

The gift of salvation

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5 together; these verses tell us that we didn't earn the gift that God gave us in Jesus.

Think of the last time you received a gift – did you do anything to earn it? What did it feel like to receive a free gift?

Have you received Christ?

Now that you have read about salvation, this is your opportunity to receive Jesus as your Savior if you haven't already done this. You can either do this with your parents, the pastor, your Wednesday night teacher, or even on your own. Simply pray something similar to this (remember, it isn't the prayer that saves you. Prayer is just talking to God).

“Lord, I know I have done things that I shouldn't have done,
and because you are perfect and holy, all those sins must be paid for.
I believe you sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for those sins for me. Right now I receive
Jesus into my life as my savior and to be my Lord.
Thank you, and help me to walk with you. Amen”

What is Baptism? (Read Romans 6:3-7; Acts 2:38)

Once you've accepted Jesus as your Savior, baptism is a way to tell everyone about that decision. Baptism does not save us, only Jesus does. It's a public expression of your salvation – which means that it's a way to show your friends and family that you've decided to follow Jesus in your life.

Jesus died to give each of us a new life – baptism is a symbol of that. When we go under the water, it's like we are washing off our old life when we come up, out of the water, it is symbolic of our new life in Christ.

Why do you want to be baptized?

Now that we've had a chance to look at the reasons for baptism together, we'd like for you to share why you personally want to be baptized.

Testimony: Telling your story

This is an opportunity to tell the world about what God has done in your life! It's hard sometimes to know how to write your story. The neat thing is, your story does not have to include everything about your life. It doesn't have to be any longer than a page, and we've given you some ideas below to help you know what you can include in your story.

Life before Christ (depending on age)

Share what life was like for you before Christ was your Lord and Savior

Asking Jesus into your heart

Tell the story of when you decided to ask Jesus to be your Lord and your Savior. What happened that made you decided to do it? Was there anyone, such as a friend, your parents, or a teacher, who was with you and helped you to know how to ask Jesus into your heart? How did you feel?

Life with Christ

Share what your life is like now that you are saved and living for Christ? What difference has Christ made in your life?

Why I want to be baptized
Finally, explain why you want to be baptized.

The Baptism Process

The basic process for someone interested in being baptized at Grace Community Church is as follows:

1. Complete this handout. Children should do so with a parent or legal guardian
2. Follow the directions in the handout under the section "Telling your story" and write or type out your story (your parents can help if applicable).
3. Set up an appointment to meet with the pastor (and your parents, if applicable) to go through the handout and your testimony.
4. Get baptized! We will set a date for your baptism. Please wear a dark shirt and shorts/pants and bring a change of clothes and a towel to your baptism. We encourage you to invite your family, friends and discipleship class to celebrate the spiritual milestone taking place in your life!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the baptism process, please contact us at info@graceonline.net or 507-343-7920