

Children's Baptism Guide



We are so excited that you are considering baptism for your child! We believe every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and in Crosswind Kids we encourage them to make the decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged to not just learn *about* Jesus, but learn *from* Him by walking with Him every day.

We encourage parents to wait until their child decides on their own to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a meaningful spiritual experience. While we believe younger children, under the age of 6, can have a relationship with Jesus, getting baptized may not be something they understand or appreciate, so we encourage parents to wait until they are a little older.

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As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child. Their answers will help show if your child understands and is ready.

1. When did you decide to follow Jesus and ask Him into your heart?

Your child should have a specific memory of when he or she understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.

2. Why do we get water baptized?

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. Why do you want to be water baptized?

Because Jesus was baptized and he tells us to also; because I'm a friend of Jesus and I want to follow Him; because I want the world to know I follow Jesus.

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Your Child Is Ready:

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then we'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with them.

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. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. We'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with your child and spur them on in their personal friendship with Jesus.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone about the process, please call the church office at 410-848-5537 Monday - Thursday from 10:00 am - 3:00 PM and ask to speak with our Children's Director, Heather Phillips, or one of our Pastors.

Baptism Devotional

Obeying Jesus' Commandment

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

Being baptized in water is one of the steps we take in following Jesus. A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. One of the reasons we get baptized is because Jesus did and He told us to also.

When you became a Christian, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you have 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.

Review: What is one reason we should be baptized in water?

An Outward Picture

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Colossians 2:12 NLT

Water baptism is an 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 into your heart, there was a death, a burial, and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer. (1 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 did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

Review: What is water baptism a picture of?

A Decision of Faith and A Public Declaration

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 6:4 NLT

Water baptism is not required for salvation, but it is a very important step in your Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. By being baptized, you are showing your commitment to Him in this very public declaration.

You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow Jesus.

Review: When you are baptized in water, what are you showing to the public?

Your Child's Salvation Story

Please help your child write a brief testimony that can be read during their baptism about how they came to know Christ. Include brief details on how they placed their faith in Christ and how their life has been changed as a result, as well as some qualities they love about God.

Name:

Age:

[illegible]