

# CHILDREN'S BAPTISM GUIDE



We're so excited that your child has expressed a desire to be water baptized! Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and in Bethel Kids we encourage them to make a 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 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 that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of seven can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older.



As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child. The following answers show that your child understands.

### **When did you decide to follow Jesus?**

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.

### **What does it mean to be 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.

### **Why do you want to be water baptized?**

Because Jesus was baptized and he tells us to be baptized also. Because I'm a friend of Jesus and I want to follow Him.

## **Your Child is Ready**

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized and they can articulate this, we believe they are ready to be baptized. We encourage you to reach out to our church and have them meet with a pastor.

## **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.

## **Understanding Water Baptism**

Water baptism doesn't save us and doesn't make us go to heaven.

That happens only through faith in Jesus. 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 to be your forever friend, 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.

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.

When you are baptized, it's a sign to the world that you have chosen to follow Jesus! It's a celebration of your brand new life and the beginning of an amazing journey serving Jesus.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING BAPTISM,  
SALVATION, OR YOU'D LIKE TO CONNECT WITH A PASTOR,  
EMAIL US AT [WELCOMEHOME@BETHELNJ.CHURCH](mailto:WELCOMEHOME@BETHELNJ.CHURCH).

