



STUDENTS *Baptism Guide*

BAPTISM IS A SIGNIFICANT NEXT STEP IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN, AND THESE RESOURCES ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT BAPTISM IS, WHO IT'S FOR, AND WHAT YOUR NEXT STEP TOWARDS BAPTISM MIGHT BE. THIS GUIDE IS TO BE USED ALONGSIDE TWO VIDEO RESOURCES CALLED, "WHO IS BAPTISM FOR?" AND, "HOW TO WRITE MY STORY."

Baptism Check List:

- WATCH: "WHO IS BAPTISM FOR?"
- WATCH: "HOW TO WRITE MY STORY"
- COMPLETE: STUDENT MINISTRY BAPTISM GUIDE
- MEET WITH: BAPTISM COORDINATOR
- WRITE: YOUR STORY AND SEND TO BAPTISM COORDINATOR
- DECIDE: WHO WILL BAPTIZE YOU AND WHO WILL READ YOUR STORY
- SCHEDULE: THE DATE YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED

MAKE SURE TO WATCH BOTH VIDEOS BEFORE CONTINUING WITH THIS GUIDE!

What is Baptism?

Baptism doesn't make someone a Christian. Baptism is a symbolic way of saying, "I believe in the Gospel."

That might be strange at first, but if you think about it, we use symbols all the time. At weddings, the people getting married exchange rings and they commit to wear those rings so that when people see them, it's a recognizable symbol that they are married.

It's the same with baptism. When someone gets baptized, it serves as a recognizable symbol to all who witnessed it of the new life they have in Christ.

READ: ROMANS 6:3-4

In your own words, how does this text teach us that Baptism is to be seen as a symbol?

Who is Baptism for?

The book of Acts tells the story of how the Gospel began to spread throughout the world and as a result we see two responses: Belief and Baptism.

Based on what you learned in the video what comes first **Belief or Baptism?**

_____ **COMES BEFORE** _____

READ each of the passages below and explain how these texts show us the biblical pattern for who Baptism is for.

ACTS 2:37-41 _____

ACTS 8:12 _____

ACTS 16:30-33 _____

Parent Guide: How to discern if your Child is ready for Baptism?

Parents, we believe that you are the primary disciple makers of your students, and we acknowledge that discerning your student's readiness for baptism can be a challenge. We want to help guide students through this process! We want to be careful not discourage baptism for a student who is ready out of fear that they might not be, nor do we want to pressure a student into getting baptized before they are ready. Please consider these prompts as you help your student explore this next step of baptism:

- When considering baptism, always keep in mind your student's **age** and **maturity**. A student who became a Christian at 11 years old should look different than one that did at 17 years old.
- Has your student expressed a genuine interest in wanting to get baptized?
- Are they able to share their Gospel story in a developmentally appropriate way, that Jesus saved them without anything they did/do (Jesus is savior)?
- Are you, as the parent, able to see that sin grieves them or that the fruit of the spirit is evident?
- Can they articulate in an age-appropriate way the complete reliance on Jesus and desire to follow his will for their lives?
- Does your student have other people who have functioned as spiritual leaders affirming their desire to pursue baptism (friends, family, leaders, etc.)?

How to Write Your Story

If baptism is for those who have put their faith in Jesus then we want to share the story of how that came to be. It's more than just a tradition for us, it's a way that we acknowledge the ways that God has been good to us! Before beginning to write your story, read **Psalm 107** in its entirety and answer the questions below:

Based on this text why is it important to share stories?

How did God respond to those who cried for help?

Do you think that your story is a powerful tool that can help other people to see God's goodness and love? If so, how?



4 Questions to Guide You in Writing Your Story

Knowing what to include in your story can be challenging. You might ask, “What do I need to include?” And, “Is there stuff I should leave out?”

Here are some helpful things to consider as you start to write:

- Narrow your focus. You’re not telling the whole story of your life, you’re telling your Gospel story – how Jesus rescued you from your own sin and brokenness.
- Keep it short. Limit your story to 250-300 words.
- Don’t do it alone. Ask for help from someone who is a spiritual leader in your life (small group leader, parent, or family member).
- Make it sound like you. Write it in a conversational format like you’re telling a friend how you came to faith in Jesus.

Story Outline

Beginning: Hi, my name is _____ and I am in the ____ grade at _____ school. This is my story.

Before Christ: Who was I before Christ?

- What were my attitudes and actions before coming to Jesus?
- What were my previous beliefs about God and faith?
- What were the things that I looked towards to give me purpose and an identity?

Meeting Christ: How did I meet Christ?

- How did God draw you to himself?
- How did you come to understand your sin and your need for a Savior?
- What truths did you come to believe in this moment or season of life about who Jesus is?

After Christ: Who am I now after Christ?

- How have my attitudes and actions changed since coming to know Jesus?
- What is my new identity and purpose?
- What do you want to see God do in and through you after coming to know Jesus?

Ending: “I am here today professing my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am ready to be baptized!”

Once you’ve completed all the steps of the Baptism Checklist at the top of this guide, send your Baptism Coordinator a typed copy of your story. They will review it looking at word count, grammatical errors, and Gospel clarity. At that point we will work with you to schedule a date for you to be baptized.

WE ARE SO EXCITED YOU ARE CONSIDERING TAKING THE STEP OF BAPTISM TO OUTWARDLY EXPRESS THE INWARD CHANGE THAT GOD HAS BEGUN IN YOU! WE ARE HERE TO WALK WITH YOU THROUGH THIS JOURNEY AS YOU GROW IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS!

CCCC Students