Baptism
A Family Discussion Guide

kids

At Village Church, we believe that baptism is a visible representation of a person's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (ROMANS 6:3-5).

When that person goes underwater, it publicly symbolizes the passing away of the old life, and when they are raised out of the water, it represents new life in Christ (COLOSSIANS 2:12).

These are some pretty big ideas, so how do you talk about this important step of faith with your child? Since baptism only happens once, we want to help you ensure that your child is ready to take this step in their faith. The guide below will help you break down the act of baptism in terms and ideas that your child can understand to help you talk with them and determine if they are ready to take this big step.

Key Verse!

"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."

COLOSSIANS 2:12

What is baptism?

Baptism is a way we show the world that we not only believe in Jesus, but choose to follow Him. It tells others:

1. **I need to be saved.**
   I know that I sin and need to be saved from my sin. Nobody lives exactly how God has instructed us to. We all sin — we disobey God. Sin keeps us from being close to God, so we need to be saved from it.

2. **Jesus saved me.**
   I believe that Jesus is God's Son who came to save us from sin. Jesus saved me by dying on the cross to take the punishment for sin and being raised back to life on the third day. Jesus took the punishment that we deserve for our sin so that we could be forgiven. Now, Jesus is alive forever, so He is able to bring us close to God forever!

3. **I follow Jesus.**
   I have asked Jesus to forgive me for my sin and I want to obey Him and live my life the way God asks me to. We may still make mistakes, but we can always remember that Jesus has saved us from sin and helps us follow God because He is stronger than sin.

The Act of Baptism

When we get baptized, we are dunked underwater to show that we are forgiven of our sin, or "made clean" from our sin. Our old way of living life the way we want to dies — like Jesus died to pay for our sin.

When we come up out of the water, we are being raised up into a new life of loving and obeying Jesus, and living our lives the way He asks us to — like Jesus was raised back to life on the third day.

Why do we get baptized?

1. Jesus wants us to. After Jesus was raised back to life, He told His followers to tell others about Him and to baptize people who also became disciples of Jesus.

Key Verse!

"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."

MATTHEW 28:19-20

2. It's a way for us to tell others that we love and follow Jesus! Baptism is an outward expression of something that has happened inside of us. It doesn't make us followers of Jesus, but it tells others that we have decided in our hearts and minds to love and follow Him.

Key Verse!

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

ROMANS 6:3-5

When is the right time to get baptized?

The important thing to remember is that there is no “right time” to get baptized, and getting baptized does not save us. Baptism is something your child does to tell everyone that they believe Jesus has saved them and have decided to follow Jesus.

When we baptize an individual at Village Church, we ask three questions:

1. Is Jesus your Saviour?

2. Is Jesus your Lord?

3. Is Jesus your Treasure?

As you talk about baptism with your child, ask yourself some of the following questions to determine if they might be ready to take this step in their faith.

Jesus as Saviour

Do they understand what sin is? Do they understand that they need to be saved from sin? That Jesus has saved them? Do they understand how Jesus has saved them?

Jesus as Lord

Do they understand that God wants us to live our lives a certain way? Are they committed to living how God asks them to live?

Jesus as Treasure

Do they love Jesus? Do they understand that God loves them? Are they thankful that Jesus has saved them?