




Baptism


A Guide For Parents



A NOTE TO PARENTS



So your child is interested in baptism - or perhaps it is you who wants your child to be baptized. We are so glad you have picked up this booklet! It is designed to help you know when your child is ready for Baptism and also to help you in the important work of discipling your children. Restoration Church is excited to come alongside you in training your children in the way they should go.




Discipling your children is as simple as finding the right time, place, and plan. Making a habit of one daily meaningful moment (time) in a consistent space (place) with a resource like this (plan) can help you become a better disciplinarian. Our hope is that the process of preparing your children for baptism is one small step in your commitment to a lifetime of disciplinarian. Whether your children are in diapers or in college, the time to start is NOW!

Baptism is an integral part of discipleship, and we are so excited that your child is interested in taking this step of faith. As you work through this booklet, you and your child may feel confident about proceeding with baptism, or you may realize more time is needed to be prepared. Regardless, conversations about baptism are an answer to our prayers as parents, and we can trust that God will complete the good work He has begun in us. We love you, we are praying for you, and we want to serve you as you disciple your children.

**YOU ARE THE
PRIMARY SPIRITUAL
INFLUENCE IN YOUR
CHILD'S LIFE**





Since understanding and believing in the gospel is the first step towards baptism, you may want to discuss the following questions to help determine your child's understanding of the gospel

We especially want children to confidently understand what it means to follow Christ and to know that baptism symbolizes their belief in the gospel.

We encourage you to share your conversion story and your baptism story with your child. Your testimony is a powerful opportunity to clearly model your faith in the gospel as well as help your child to understand how baptism symbolizes belief in the gospel.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Here are some questions you may want to ask your child as you consider baptism. Feel free to adjust and shape these questions or use your own.

- What do you already know about baptism?
- Have you seen a baptism at church?
- What happens during the baptism event?
- Why do you think people clap after the baptism?
- How does watching a baptism make you feel?
- Has anyone else in our family been baptized?






AM I READY?

Guided Questions

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET BAPTIZED?

Parents, consider what is motivating your child. Is it a sincere desire to obey Jesus or is it something else?




WHAT IS BAPTISM?

It is an outward sign of an inward change. Baptism is to salvation what a wedding ring is to marriage. Baptism is merely a symbol of a commitment made to Jesus.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM SYMBOLIZE?

Going under the water symbolizes our death with Christ. Coming out of the water symbolizes our resurrection with Christ (Romans 6:3-4). The water represents the blood of Christ that washes us white as snow (1 Peter 3:21).





AM I READY?

Guided Questions

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

Jesus was baptized (Matt 3:13-17). Jesus commanded it (Matt 28:18-20). Peter commanded it (Acts 2:38).

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Only believers (Acts 2:41, 8:12).

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

All the way under the water. The original word means "to immerse" (Acts 8:36).





UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?


The gospel is the main message of the Bible (1 Cor. 15:6). The gospel includes the overarching message of the Bible: God's good creation, man's fall, Christ's death on the cross, and the coming new creation after judgment. The gospel is also the simple message that God created us to glorify Him (Isaiah 43:6). However, we have chosen to glorify ourselves and have fallen short of His glory (Romans 3:23). The right punishment for our sin is death (Romans 6:23), but God is kind in that He sent Jesus Christ on our behalf (Romans 5:8).

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL?

We must repent of our sin and trust in Jesus (Mark 1:14-15, Acts 2:22-41, Acts 20:17-38, Acts 26:12-29).

WHO IS JESUS?

God's Son (Matt 3:17, 1 John 4:10). Jesus saves us from our sin (John 3:16-18, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 John 4:14). Jesus is our Lord, the boss of our lives (John 21:7, Acts 2:36, Romans 1:4).





UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL



HOW ARE WE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD?

Only through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. Our sin was not swept under the rug. Our sin was paid for by Jesus on the cross. When we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus, all our sin goes onto Jesus Christ and Jesus' righteousness is given to us. A great trade is made: Jesus takes our sin and gives us his righteousness.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO ON OUR OWN TO BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD?

Absolutely not. Consider asking, "What if I am a really good person, give my money away, or go to church and follow the rules, etc..." (Acts 4:12).

WHEN DID YOU SAY "YES" TO FOLLOWING JESUS?

Seek to identify when your child decided to make a decision to surrender their life to Christ?



N E X T STEPS

If your child needs more time before they have adequately understood this material, continue the conversation until your child comprehends baptism and the gospel.

On the other hand, if your child is ready to proceed with baptism, please sign up at

<http://restorationchurchwf.org/events/>

Once we receive the sign-up form, someone will contact you about the baptism.

In the meantime, we encourage you to write the date of their salvation and baptism in their Bible for keepsake.

We also would encourage your child to share their faith story with others.

We are excited for the decision your child has made to follow Jesus. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in their spiritual journey.

