



CITYKIDS

BAPTISM



WE ARE THE FUTURE

Today in Citykids, we talked about what it means to get baptized and your child told us that they would like to participate in our upcoming baptism service.

Because your child expressed an interest in baptism, we'd like to ask you, as their parent, to do four things:

1. Check for your child's understanding of baptism and discuss it with them
2. Sign your child up to get baptized
3. Attend a baptism class with your child

Easy enough, right? This packet is designed to help you know how to do all three of those things; and, more importantly, how you can help make your child's baptism a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved. Take a few minutes to read through the information provided- and then it's time to get started!

STEP ONE: CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Here in CityKids, we believe that parents are the primary spiritual authority in their child's life. That's a fancy way to say that we think you're in charge when it comes to spiritual things for your kids. Because of that, we think it's important that you're the decision maker when it comes to your child's baptism. You know your child best, so you'll be the best judge of whether or not this is something they understand and are ready for.

Before a child gets baptized, they should understand:

- God loves them and has a plan for their life.
- We all sin. Our sin separates us from God and the penalty for sin is death.
- Jesus Christ is God's solution to our sin problem. Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died to pay the price for our sins, and came back to life three days later.
- We must place our faith in Jesus as our Savior in order to receive the gift of salvation and go to heaven someday.
- Getting baptized is a way to publicly announce that we believe in Jesus as our Savior and intend to follow him for the rest of our life.

STEP ONE: CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

How do I know if my child truly understands what salvation is and why they should get baptized?

ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS LIKE:

- What can you tell me about God? What do you think is important to know about him?
- What do you think sin is? Why is it a big deal?
- Can you give me some examples of things that are sins?
- If someone asked you to describe who Jesus is, what would you say?
- What did Jesus do for us? Why was what Jesus did important?
- What does it mean to say that you believe in Jesus or that you are a Christian?
- What do you think it means to be baptized? What happens when you get baptized?



HINT: Encourage your child to express his or her own ideas and allow time for thinking and responding. It is not unusual for a child to take up to a minute or even longer to answer a question they have not every really thought about the answer to previously. If some time has passed and you sense they are struggling to put their thoughts into words, rephrase your question and see if that helps. And, remember, this shouldn't feel like an interrogation to your child. If possible, strike up a conversation with them during a meal or during another activity—while you're doing things like driving in the car together, or washing dishes, or walking the dog.

Don't worry, this isn't a test that you should be worried about your child passing or failing. Rather, your child's answers to these questions will help you gauge whether or not baptism is something they're ready for at this point in their lives. They don't necessarily have to have perfect answers for every question! This might even be the perfect opportunity to clear a few things up for them before they get baptized.

If, after talking with them, you don't feel your child is ready to get baptized, that's OK! Emphasize to them that you're proud of them for being interesting in spiritual things and wanting to take the next step in their faith. Let them know that you feel they still have a few things to learn and understand before they get baptized, and that you'd like to help them learn those things so that next time they can join in!



HINT: If your child is struggling to understand the point of baptism or the relationship between baptism and salvation, try explaining it like a birthday party. Every year, you have a birthday. That birthday comes whether you celebrate it or not. You turn a year older no matter what. However, sometimes you have a birthday party to celebrate that birthday. A birthday party is a fun way to celebrate that you're turning a year older. You don't need a party to turn a year older, but it certainly is a fun way to announce to the world that you're turning a year older. Baptism is like a birthday party. You not need to be baptized to be a Christian. Getting baptized will not save you from your sins, only Jesus can do that! However, Jesus told us to be baptized as a way of announcing to the world that he saved us and that we want to follow him.

If you feel your child is ready to get baptized, then it's time to turn the page and move on to Step 2!

STEP TWO: **SIGNING YOUR CHILD UP TO GET BAPTIZED**

Once you're confident that your child is ready to get baptized, it's time to sign them up! You can sign your child up for baptism at:

beachcities.org/baptism

You'll simply need to provide some basic info, select your preferred weekend service time for your child's baptism, and choose a date to attend baptism class together.

STEP THREE: ATTEND BAPTISM CLASS

If your child is 5th grade or younger, one or both parents should plan to attend baptism class with them. Our CityKids baptism class is meant to do three things:

1. Help your child gain a confident understanding of their own salvation and baptism: what they are, what they mean, and why they matter.
2. Facilitate meaningful conversation between kids and parents, further establishing you as the primary spiritual authority in your child's life.
3. Prepare your child for the actual "day-of logistics" of their baptism.

If, for some reason, neither parent is able to attend the baptism class with your child, consider sending a trusted friend or relative who is already a positive spiritual influence in your child's life.

That's it. Once you've checked for your child's understanding, signed them up to get baptized, and attend a baptism class with them, you're all set to go! You've got more information on exactly what to expect at the baptism service and how to help your child be prepared when you attend the class with them.

If you have any questions or need any additional assistance preparing for your child's baptism, please contact our Director of Children's Ministry, Muna Bohn, at muna.bohn@beachcities.org.

