

Valley Kids

KIDS' BAPTISM

PARENT-CHILD WORKBOOK

*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

DEAR PARENTS

We're excited that your child is thinking about pursuing baptism! It's clearly something that was important to Jesus, so we're happy that it's important to them as well.

THE INTENTION OF THIS WORKBOOK

We don't want to do a typical "baptism class". We would rather help YOU be the primary spiritual leader in your home. We don't want to steal this teaching opportunity from you, so instead we want to help you with it!

This workbook is meant to be done with your child. It shouldn't take much time, and it'll give you good direction so you can do two things with confidence:

1. Teach your child about baptism
2. Determine if they're ready, or if they should wait a bit longer.

Take some time to read through the Parent Prep sections material in order to get familiar with what you will be teaching your child. Then walk through the following sections step by step with your child. At the end there is a quiz your child can take so you can see if they understood the material and a testimony worksheet section for them to write about what Jesus has done in their life. You can use this to discern their readiness for baptism.

If after working through this together you can see your child is ready for baptism contact the church office to set up a time for your child's baptism.

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1. PARENT PREP: KEY SCRIPTURES

PARENTS, You don't have to be a Bible scholar to teach your kids spiritual things! So here are the basics about baptism. Look over these BEFORE you sit down with your kid.

Jesus told us to baptize his disciples (followers).

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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..." **Matthew 28:18-20**

A symbol of entering into the death/resurrection of Jesus.

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. **Romans 6:3-4**

It's an outward sign of an inward commitment of faith.

When they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip... **Acts 8:12-13**

It comes right after "conversion" (new faith).

Those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **Acts 2:41**

2. PARENT PREP: Q&A

PARENTS, here are some answers to a few commonly asked questions about baptism. Take some time with your child to ask and answer these questions.

Does a person have to be baptized to be saved?

Nope. Although there is no excuse not to be baptized, nothing can be added to faith as the one saving act. Faith in Christ alone saves us. Anything else is called “works based righteousness,” and we don’t believe in that!

What if I was baptized when I was a baby?

We would view that as a dedication, not a believer’s baptism. They are different. We would invite you, if you’ve placed your faith in Christ, to be baptized as a sign of your faith.

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who puts their faith in Christ! Anyone who confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord should be baptized.

What if I was baptized years ago, but fell away? Should I be re-baptized?

Nope, no need. We don’t see anyone in the Bible being baptized more than once. You’ll need to repent regularly for the rest of your life, but you never have to be re-baptized. It’s a one-time event. That’s why we caution parents with young kids under 2nd grade who want their kids baptized. The reality is, they’ll want to be re-baptized in their teens, we promise you! And that’s a hard conversation to have.

3. PARENT-CHILD BIBLE DISCUSSION

PARENTS, now it's time for you to sit down and have a discussion with your child. We suggest you don't just get their answer, but you tell them yours, too. Take your time, and do this together.

- 1. What is the Bible? What do you know about it? What's your favorite story in the Bible?**
- 2. What happened with Adam and Eve? What did they do?**
- 3. What's the word for things that make God angry or sad?**
(Hint: It starts with an S!)
- 4. Has everyone sinned? What about really nice people? Can you remember any sins you've done?**
- 5. What happens to people who sin? Does God discipline them? Why?**
- 6. What did God do to rescue us and forgive us of sin?**
- 7. How do we get forgiveness from God? Do we just have to be really good to make God happy?**
- 8. When we go to church on Sunday we sing. Why?**
- 9. What questions do you have about the Bible? What is confusing to you?**

4. THE WHO & WHAT OF BAPTISM

PARENTS, this is meant to help you explain what baptism is. Use the discussion questions below and others that come to mind.

Who gets baptized? Let's look and see:

Let's read the Great Commission (which is Jesus' big assignment for us) together and see who is supposed to get baptized. Jesus said:

*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*

1. What do you think a "disciple" is? If you don't know, let's look it up!
2. Who is the "them" in that verse? Who gets baptized?
3. So the question is, are you a disciple? Do you think you are? How come?

What is baptism? What happens?

The word "baptism" means "to put in water," but baptism is more than just dunking your cat in water, as much fun as that is!

Read this story about someone getting baptized, and see what baptism is:

*As they rode along, they came to some **water**, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! What can't I be baptized?" he ordered the carriage to stop, and they **went down into the water**, and Philip baptized him. **Acts 8:37-38***

1. What happens to a person when they get baptized?
2. Who does it to them?

5. THE WHY & WHERE OF BAPTISM

PARENTS, this section will help you and your child the why and where of baptism. Use the discussion questions and scriptures below and others that come to mind.

Why do people get baptized? Should I?

So we know that *disciples* are the ones who get baptized, and being baptized means someone else dunks you in water. But why?

Let's read Romans 6:3-5 to see why people get baptized:

*3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 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

1. So what does that mean?
2. Who are you like when you get baptized?

Where do people get baptized?

Let's read Acts 2:41 to see where people get baptized:

*41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **Acts 2:41***

1. Do people get baptized publicly, or alone, so no one can see?
2. Why do you think baptism is done in front of lots of people?

6. HOW WE BAPTIZE AT VALLEY CHURCH

PARENTS, this section will help you and your child understand how we do baptisms at Valley Church.

Typically baptisms take place as a part of our Sunday morning worship services. This allows the church and our family and friends to be able to witness and rejoice in the work God has done in your life together. If you desire to be baptized we encourage you to do so within the context of these gatherings.

Prior to baptism, participants are required to **complete the child quiz and baptism questionnaire** which you will find at the end of this workbook. It will lead you through the process of writing out your testimony and allows our Elders to discern that you are a true follower of Jesus that has understood and responded to the gospel.

At the baptism service, the person performing the baptism will ask, “Do you confess and believe Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?” to which the baptizee will respond, “Yes” or “I do.” The baptizer will then immerse and subsequently raise the baptizee out of the water while saying, “I baptize you, my (brother or sister) in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” [Some will choose to also say, “Buried with Christ in baptism, raised to walk in newness of life” which is taken from Romans 6:4 *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.*]

Some helpful hints for the day of your baptism.

1. Wear dark shorts and a dark shirt to maintain modesty.
2. Come to church dressed in what you will wear to be baptized
3. Bring a change of clothes, towel and bag to hold your wet clothes after you change.

7. CHILD QUIZ

KIDS, this is for you. Try it without any help!

1. Being baptized is which of the following?

- a) something all kids do
- b) for all kids whose parents go to church
- c) for kids & adults who have decided to follow Jesus
- d) for kids who are really nice

2. Baptism is when you:

- a) go to church and pray to God with others
- b) get put under water because you love Jesus
- c) sing in a kids' choir
- d) turn 9 years old

3. Jesus said that people should get baptized:

- a) in order for God to love you more
- b) because you can't go to heaven if you don't
- c) even if you're unsure about it
- d) to show others that you want to follow Him forever

4. I am ready to get baptized if:

- a) I believe that Jesus died & came back to life
- b) I trust Jesus has washed away my sin
- c) I want everyone to know that I am a Christian
- d) All of the above

5. To be "saved" by Jesus means:

- a) you no longer do bad things, like you used to
- b) you make God happy by going to church
- c) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your *faith*, not because of what you do
- d) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith *and* because you started doing more good things

8. TESTIMONY

WORKSHEET

Now it's time to tell others about how you became a Christian and how Jesus has changed your life. Here are some tips on developing your testimony.

#1. Write down when & how you became a Christian. Communicate the gospel clearly and briefly; include the following: The fact of sin (Romans 3:23), the **penalty** of sin (Romans 6:23), Jesus' **payment** for sin on the cross (Romans 5:8), and the requirement to **repent** and **trust** Jesus personally (Romans 10:9-10).

#2. Write about how Jesus changed your life. How are you living differently today because of what Jesus has done for you? Part of this can include a thank you to anyone who helped you begin a relationship with Christ.

#3. Share Your Favorite Scripture. If you have a favorite scripture passage that has meant a lot to you, share it here.

9. PARENT ASSESSMENT

PARENTS, we want to caution you here. It is very tempting to just assume your child is ready to be baptized. Here are a few things to consider before you say yes. You don't have to write your answers.

- 1. Does your child truly grasp the weight of their sin?** We think that most kids can't grasp it until they're in 1st or 2nd grade, though there are exceptions.
- 2. Does your child understand Jesus' work to clear them of that sin?**
- 3. Have you prayerfully considered your child's faith, and do you feel like baptism is the next step of their faith? Or should they wait?** Our experience is that many kids who are baptized before they are 13 years old will want to be baptized in Junior High, claiming that their faith "became real" and "their own" at that time. Just another word of caution.
- 4. Are you convinced your child is making this decision because of their own faith, not because of pressure they feel from you or the church?**

If the answer is **YES** to these questions and you feel your child is ready to be baptized, submit your child's testimony to the church office. One of our Elders will be in contact with you to get to know you, talk about what Jesus has done in your child's and schedule the baptism.

10. NEXT STEPS

PARENTS, thanks for taking the time to walk through this very important topic with your child.

If your child is ready for baptism:

Submit your child's testimony to the church office. One of our Elders will be in contact with you to get to know you, talk about what Jesus has done in your child's and schedule the baptism.

If your child is going to wait to be baptized:

Don't fret! Keep praying for your child's faith, and keep fostering that faith in your home until your child is ready to make this decision. Our children's ministry exists to partner with you as a parent as you disciple your children to follow Jesus. If we can help in any way let us know.