

# BAPTISM

## TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM

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### WHERE YOUR CHILD IS AT IN THEIR BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Your child right now is a concrete thinker. That means that their brain sees things in black and white. Baptism is a tricky topic, as it is an outward symbol of an inward change - a construct. So saying something like "Baptism shows us dying to our old life to have a new life in Christ" is confusing to a child. So how can you explain baptism in a way a child will understand? Here is how to explain it in kid talk.

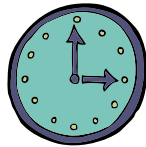
#### WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT



THAT GOD LOVES YOU MORE IF YOU DO IT



A WAY TO GET TO HEAVEN



A RIGHT OF PASSAGE



HAVING TO ASK JESUS INTO OUR LIFE A SECOND TIME



RESERVED FOR ONLY ADULTS



SOMETHING WE HAVE TO REPEAT

#### JESUS WAS BAPTIZED (MATTHEW 3:13-17)

Jesus showed by example that we are to be baptized by being baptized himself. Jesus had no sin to repent of, his baptism showed that he was willing to surrender to God.

When someone goes down into the water, it is a picture of going down into the grave - just like Jesus when he died for our sins. The coming back up from the water shows being raised with Jesus, having a new life. It is a symbolic act that we will also surrender and live lives that honour God.

#### WHAT BAPTISM IS

##### IT SHOWS OUR FAITH

First, we accept Jesus. That means we recognize we have sinned and without Jesus we are not able to be made right with God. We need to believe in Jesus first.

##### IT SHOWS OUR GROWTH

We need to keep growing in our understanding of Jesus. As we grow older, we are able to understand more and more what He did.

##### AN OUTWARD SYMBOL OF AN INWARD CHOICE

Just like a wedding ring symbolizes you are married, baptism symbolizes you have committed to following Jesus.

##### THE NEXT STEP

We are asked to be baptized. Once we believe Jesus, it is the next step in our Christian life.

## SO WHAT'S THE DEAL @ RIDGE CHURCH?

At Ridge Church, we hold to the believers baptism. That means that we see baptism as something an individual chooses after they have trusted Christ. Kids have a hard time understanding symbolic acts like communion and baptism, and our priority is to make sure we do not confuse kids or push them to make a commitment without a clear understanding.

During the preschool and elementary school years, kids @ Ridgekids will learn about Jesus, communion, and baptism, building up a faith foundation. When they are in Junior Youth, Pastor Dan will take kids through a baptism curriculum. At this age, with brain development, kids are able to understand these spiritual concepts, so their minds and hearts are able to understand the act of baptism.

### WHAT'S HAPPENS IF I FEEL MY CHILD IS READY?

#### GO THROUGH THE 'QUESTIONS TO ASK' WITH YOUR CHILD

It's a great way to see if your child understands.

#### BOOK A MEETING WITH A PASTOR

Parents get very excited when their child makes this declaration. While we affirm the decision, we want to make sure the child share their desire for baptism. A pastor may want to chat with your child one on one, as this is an individual decision

#### BE OPEN TO WAIT

If your child is asked to wait to be baptized, that is okay! God asks us to wait for the timing to be right for many milestones in our lives. Waiting may be the best thing for your child's heart and mind to be ready to accept the responsibility of baptism.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK



WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET BAPTIZED?



WHAT IS SIN?



WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE FOR OUR SINS?



WHAT MADE YOU THINK ABOUT BAPTISM?



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER YOU ARE BAPTIZED?



CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU?