



Considering Baptism and what this step can look like for you?

This guide was designed to help equip you in making this decision! Please take a moment to read and process through the information below.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- **An expression of faith**

Baptism does not make you a follower of Jesus. It is simply an obedient expression of your faith and commitment to Christ. Every example we see in the Bible demonstrates that a person first comes to believe in Jesus and then he or she is baptized as an expression of that belief.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- *"Those who accepted his message were baptized..." Acts 2:41 (NIV)*
- Every person mature enough to make a personal decision to follow Jesus should be baptized. Passages such as *Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47-48* make it clear that baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation.

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

- In the Bible, parents often brought their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them, and blessed them. The New Testament only records the baptisms of adult believers. Baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for salvation.
- Parents will often baptize a baby or child intending that their child will one day become a follower of Jesus. If you were baptized as a child, then your baptism as an adult can be viewed as the fulfillment of your parent's wishes. In no way does it renounce your baptism as a child.

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

- **The New Testament offers the following reasons:**
 - **Following Christ's example.** *"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River." Mark 1:9 (NIV) "Jesus said, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'" Matthew 28:19 (NIV)*
 - **Demonstrating your faith.** *"...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8 (NIV)*

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM?

- **An illustration of Christ's burial and resurrection**

In Romans 6:1-11, the apostle Paul explains how baptism by immersion identifies the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Going underwater signifies Christ's death and coming up out of the water illustrates His resurrection. Baptism symbolizes your commitment to make Jesus the Lord of your life.
- **A symbol of your new life as a follower of Jesus**

When you decide to follow Jesus, an inner change takes place. Baptism is the outward symbol of the inward commitment you have made to Jesus Christ. It is the first step of obedience in your journey with Jesus and a public statement of your faith. But the waters of baptism do not save you. The Bible tells us we are saved by the mercy and grace of God.

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

- The New Testament gives us a clear picture of baptism:
 - Jesus was baptized by being immersed in water. *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16a (NIV)*
 - Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion underwater. *"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39 (NIV)*
 - The word "baptize" literally means, "to dip or immerse under water."
 - Baptism by immersion is the best way to illustrate a burial and resurrection.

CAN I BE BAPTIZED IN A LAKE/POOL OR AT A TIME OF MY CHOOSING?

- Yes, you can! The idea of Baptism is celebration and a public declaration of your decision to follow Jesus. The important elements include your community of followers of Jesus who have been part of your journey and enough water to be immersed in. We encourage you to involve someone who is a follower of Jesus whom has also been baptized by immersion. The person baptizing should state, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." If you do this, please share the moment with us as well by either recording it or taking some photos so we can celebrate this step with you!

HOW TO HOST A BAPTISM FOR YOUR GROUP/FAMILY

- Share this resource with each person being baptized.
- Ensure the person performing the baptisms has been baptized by immersion as a follower of Jesus.
- Locate a body of water nearby, local lake, pool, bathtub, etc...to perform the baptisms in.
- Schedule a date and time that works for everyone involved.
- **Let us know** you are doing this so we can help capture the moment and support you as the host of the baptism event in your efforts with baptism t-shirts, certificates and more!

STATEMENT TO USE DURING BAPTISM

- We use **Mathew 28:19** as a guideline for the wording we use during the act of baptism. The reason for this is from the clear instruction Jesus gives us in this verse and references of the early church practicing this as well. If you decide that being baptized in a lake or pool is the route you wish to take, the person baptizing you should state, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY; BUT WANT TO GET BAPTIZED?

- Yes, of course! If you plan to get baptized at one of our campuses, please let us know your limitations and we will work to accommodate a celebration for you. Additionally here are a couple guiding principles for those with limitations/disabilities considering this step:
 - Baptism is designed for a person who believes in Jesus to publicly declare their commitment to Jesus and to signify the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus in their life. If a person is unable to be fully

immersed in water due to physical restrictions, he or she can at least make a public declaration of faith in front of other followers of Jesus to clearly declare faith in Jesus for salvation, their commitment to Him, and identification with Him. As this would accomplish what baptism signifies.

- The exact answer to baptism for those disabled, elderly, or otherwise unable to be baptized by immersion is not specifically addressed in the Bible. However, there are [references](#) indicating that pouring of water was clearly used in the early church as an alternative to baptism by immersion in cases where use of water for immersion was not possible.

CAN MY FRIENDS/FAMILY/SPOUSE BE BAPTIZED ALONGSIDE ME?

Yes, certainly! Please share this resource with them as they seek to take this step.