

## What is Baptism?

In your own words, describe what you know about baptism.

The Bible teaches us about baptism and can equip us to decide if this is the right time for you to be baptized. **Read Acts 8:26-40 and discuss with your parent or another adult:** What happened in this story? Who did Philip meet? What did Philip explain to this person? What did this person want to do after they heard the good news of Jesus? Why? What can you learn from baptism in this story?

A person must first hear and receive the good news about Jesus before they are baptized. Baptism is the outward action by which people demonstrate what God has revealed in their heart to be the truth about Jesus.

What do you know to be true about Jesus? Have you made a sincere and personal decision to accept Christ as your Savior?

## Important Facts about Baptism:

- Jesus was baptized...we are following Jesus when we get baptized (*Matthew 3:13-17*)
- Jesus commanded His followers to be baptized (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- It is for those who have called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be their Savior (*Acts 2:41*)

Baptism is a symbol of the new life a person finds in Christ. They are "burying" their old life before Christ and being "raised up" again to a new life with a promise to always follow Jesus. You will be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While you are under the water the person who is baptizing you will say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." This is a declaration to everyone watching that the baptism represents that all the members of the Trinity have worked in your salvation and that you are a child of God.

The **Father** loved us and gave His Son for us as a sacrifice for your sins. (*John 3:16*) The **Son** died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead so we can have peace with God (*I Cor. 15:3; Eph. 1:20*). The **Holy Spirit** convicts us of sin, showing us our need for a Savior (*John 16:7-11*); He opens God's Word to us so we can understand who Jesus is (*I Cor. 2:12, 13; 12:3*). When we pray to receive Christ, He seals us as a child of God (*Eph. 1:13*) and lives in us permanently as our helper (*Rom. 8:11*).

Did you know that BAPTISM means "to make wet" – when you are baptized, someone who is a follower of Jesus will walk out into the water with you. They will stand next to you, and put their arm around your shoulder. You will want to place your arms on your chest, using one hand to plug your nose. Rest back against the arms of the other person and they will slowly lower you into the water and bring you back up. You will be safe!! Your life in Christ will give you many opportunities to trust Him, just like you will be trusting this person!

### **Important Understandings about Baptism:**

- Baptism doesn't save us from your sins -- it only tells others that we have asked Jesus to take away our sins. *What does it mean that Jesus is a Savior? From what does He save people? How do you know that Jesus is YOUR Savior? Are you a child of God?*
- Baptism is for those who are already members of God's family. *If someone has not yet received Jesus as their Savior, should they be baptized? What are some reasons why someone might want to be baptized even if they are not yet a child of God? What is the only right reason for being baptized? Do you want to be baptized now? Why or why not?*
- People can choose to be baptized anytime after they have called upon the name of the Lord Jesus for salvation. *When is the right time to be baptized?*

### **What Do You Do After Your Baptism?**

The day of your baptism is very special. It declares to yourself, God and others that you plan to follow Jesus as a child of God for the rest of your life. This special day should be remembered and encourage you to keep walking in a close relationship with Jesus.

*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4*

What are some ways that you can stay in close relationship with Jesus?

### **Getting Ready for Your Baptism**

1. Continue to study the Scriptures listed here with an adult in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to understand the true meaning of baptism.
2. Pray and ask the Lord to give you courage to help you take this step of obedience and to do it for the right reasons.
3. Pray and ask the Lord to show you if there is anything in your life that might be hurting your relationship with Him. If He shows you something, come to Him with repentance – tell Him you are sorry, receive His forgiveness, and ask Him to help you stop doing this thing that is so harmful.
4. Ask a special adult in your life to pray for you; that your heart and mind would be guarded in Christ.
5. It's okay if you feel a little nervous. Ask the special adults in your life about when they were baptized.
6. Prepare how you will share about who Jesus is in your life. Talking in front of a lot of people can be scary, so plan ahead. Write it down—it's okay to read it if you want. It doesn't have to be a long story. Just simply tell when and how Jesus became your Savior and why you want to be baptized. (All the reasons are in this booklet...just put them into your own words...make it your story!) On the day of your baptism, you will be ask to share with everyone:
  - a. Who Jesus is to you.
  - b. Why you want to be baptized.