



Leading a Home Baptism

As you prepare to lead a baptism in your home remember that baptism is a big part of accepting God's gift of grace and salvation through Jesus. It is a celebration, but it shouldn't be taken lightly. Here are a few steps to help you lead this wonderful experience:

Preparation

If you haven't already, take the time to read the Baptism Teaching found on the Flatirons website. It should be very helpful in preparing your heart and mind for your home baptism.

Find the best place to immerse or dunk the person(s) completely under water. It can be a tub, hot tub or pool. Try to use a place where everyone in the family can watch and celebrate.

Make sure the person you're baptizing feels comfortable in the water.

Last of all, if you're baptizing a child, please make sure the child truly understands the decision they're making and what it means to be baptized. There's no hurry for any child to do this and we don't want a child feeling pressured to participate—due to outside pressure. You can start by asking the child this simple question, "*Do you know what we're doing here (baptism)?*" If the child responds with something literal like, "*Getting wet*" or "*Swimming*" they are probably not ready to make this step in faith yet. If the child can't really answer the question or says, "*I don't know*" they just aren't ready. Remember, this is a *personal* decision and we don't want to force a child to do something before they are ready. For too many of us, we were forced in childhood to do something "religious"—and we're still working through that damage.

The Service

- 1) **Prayer** - It might be good (and will set the tone for the event) if you start with prayer. If you're not comfortable praying, ask someone who is or you can always simply read this:

"God, thank you for this special time where we witness (Name Here) make a big step in their in you by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Please be with (Name Here) today, at this time, and throughout their entire life. In Jesus name. Amen!"

- 2) **Question of Faith** - Before baptizing, ask the person you're baptizing this question,
"(Name Here), do you believe that Jesus is your Lord and Savior?"
After they have answered in the affirmative say,
"Because of your confession of faith, I baptize you now in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- 3) **Baptize** - Hold the back of the persons head with one hand and hold their arm or wrist (depending on whether they plug their nose or not), then push them back—under the water—until completely submerged, and then lift them back up, out of the water.
- 4) **Celebrate** – Have a great time celebrating this wonderful decision—whatever that looks like. This is a great time for everyone to surround the newly baptized follower of Jesus and pray or cheer or clap. Enjoy the moment.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding a home baptism. You can email dan_foote@flatironschurch.com with your questions.