



GRACE
CommunityChurch

What about
Baptism?

Baptism at Grace Community

*"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 Reader,

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

The Intention of this Workbook:

We don't want to do a typical "baptism class" at Grace. We would rather help YOU be the primary spiritual leader in your home. So we don't want to steal this teaching opportunity from you... 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.

We (you, your child, and one of the pastors) will go over the content of this booklet at our "Baptism Meeting," which will happen before the scheduled baptism if you think they're ready.

Looking forward to that meeting!-the Pastors of Grace Community Church

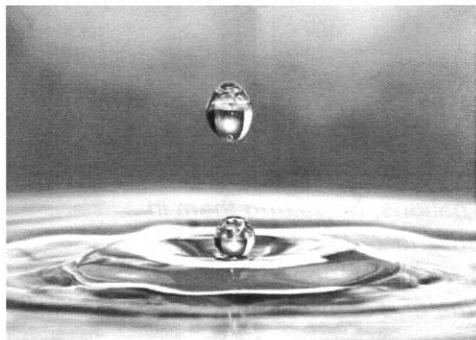


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Questions?

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Key Scriptures

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 child.)

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 6:2-4

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

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

It is not an act of salvation.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

— Ephesians 2:8-9

Frequent Questions

Here are the answers to a few commonly asked questions about baptism:

Does a person have to be baptized to be saved?

Answer: No. 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”.

What if I was baptized when I was a baby?

Answer: 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?

Answer: 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?

Answer: No. 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 is a one-time event.

That’s why we caution parents with young kids under 2nd grade who want their kids baptized. Reality is: they’ll want to be re-baptized in their teens... we promise you! And that’s a hard conversation to have.

Parent-child Discussion

Parents, this is 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...

**What is the Bible? What do you know about it?
What's your favorite story in the Bible?**

What happened with Adam & Eve? What did they do?

What's the word for things that make God angry or sad? (Hint: It starts with an S!)

Has everyone sinned? What about really nice people? Can you remember any sins you've done?

What happens to people who sin? Does God discipline them? Why?

What did God do to rescue us and forgive us of sin?

How do we get forgiveness from God? Do we just have to be really good to make God happy?

When we go to church on Sunday, we sing... why?

What questions do you have about the Bible? What is confusing to you?

Who & What

Use the discussion questions below to help you explain what baptism is.

Who gets Baptized? Let's look & see...

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

Jesus said: *"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."* (Matt. 28:19)

First... What do you think a "disciple" is? (If you don't know, let's look it up!) And who is the "them" in that verse? Who gets baptized? 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 the water." But baptism is more than just dunking your cat in water... as much fun as that is! Read this story from Acts 8 about someone getting baptized, and see what Baptism is:

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Wrapping Up

What happens to a new believer when they get baptized?
Who baptizes new believers?

Why & Where

Here are more discussion questions for you.

Why do people get baptized? Should I?

Hmmm. So we know that disciples are the ones who get baptized... and being baptized means that you are dunked 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.

This picture of baptism is being all in Christ, it shows that we have died to our own life and now desire to follow Him.

Where do people get baptized?

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

'Then those who people who accepted what Peter said [about Jesus] were baptized. About 3,000 people!...'

Do people get baptized in front of other people, or alone, so no one can see?

Why do you think baptism is done in front of lots of people?

Questionnaire

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 kid's 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) When you are sure that you are perfect
- d) to show others that you want to be obedient and follow Jesus

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 sins
- 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) I have turned from my sin and trusted in Christ as my savior and he has given me faith.
- d) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith and because you started doing more good things

My Testimony

Write your answers, with no help at first...

Do you want to be baptized? Y N

If yes, why do you want to be baptized?

What does it mean to be a Christian?

When did you place your faith and trust in Christ?

Why did you say “yes” to Jesus? Why did you say “yes” to following Him and loving Him?

Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from your sin?

Are you ready to publicly commit to follow Jesus for the rest of your life?

Parent Assessment

Parents, we want to caution you here. It's very tempting to just assume your child is ready to be baptized. We'll ultimately leave it to your discretion, but here are a few things to consider before you say yes

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...

Does he/she understand Jesus' work to clear them of that sin?

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 nearly all 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" in Junior High. Just another word of caution.

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?

"Next Steps" are found on the back cover.

Consider keeping this notebook as a way to *look back on this important time in your child's life!*

Baptism at GCC

Parents, thanks for taking the time
to walk through this very
important topic with your kids!

If you or your child is ready for baptism:

You can sign up on our website under the
“Next Steps” page. Contact one of the
pastors to set up a Baptism Meeting.

If your child is going to wait to be baptized:

Don't fret! Keep praying for your child's faith.

Keep fostering that faith in your home until
your child is ready to make this decision.

www.migracechurch.com/next-steps