



Part 1: Jesus, Sin, Salvation

In order to understand Baptism, we first need to understand:

- who Jesus is, what sin is, how we can be forgiven for our sins,
- and what it means to become a Christian or follower of Jesus.

1. Who Is Jesus?

No one has ever seen God. But God the only Son is very close to the Father, and he has shown us what God is like. John 1:18 (NCV)

Jesus is _____

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (ESV)

Jesus is _____

[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16 (ESV)

Jesus is _____

2. What is Sin?

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

Sin is _____

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17 (ESV)

Sin is _____

3. Who has Sinned?

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (ESV)

Do I admit that I am a sinner? _____

As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12 (ESV)

Who has sinned? _____

4. What Is The Consequence Of Sin??

Nothing unclean and no one who does shameful things or tells lies will ever go into it. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city [of heaven.] Revelation 21:27 (NCV)

Which people will not get into heaven? _____

For the wages [or penalty] of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (ESV)

The penalty of sin is _____ God's free gift is _____

(Not just physical death, but a spiritual death which means eternal separation from God.)

When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins.¹⁴ He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14 (NCV)

Because of my sin I am _____

God made me alive again with _____

God _____ all my sins

God _____ my debt (which I brought upon myself by sinning)

5. Why Did Jesus Come into Our World?

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (ESV)

Jesus came _____

And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:31-32 (ESV)

Repent therefore, and turn back [turn away from sin] that your sins may be blotted out,²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19-20 (ESV)

I need to _____ of my sins

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17 (ESV)

God sent Jesus because God want's me to _____ in Jesus

Jesus came to give me _____

Jesus did not come to condemn me, but to _____ me

6. What Are Some Ways We All Sin?

7. How Can I Become a Christian? [or follower of Christ]

For the wages [or penalty] of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (ESV)

Do I admit I'm a sinner? yes / no

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

When I confess my sins to God, what does He do for me?

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)

How can I get to heaven other than through Jesus? _____

8. When you confess your sins to God it has to be genuine and heart felt. The proper attitude behind confession is called Repentance. REPENT means to turn away from evil, and to turn to good.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: *I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief...¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret... 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 (ESV)*

Godly grief because of my sins is an indicator of what? _____

Jesus said, repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15 (ESV)

God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. Romans 2:4-5 (ESV)

If I don’t repent will God forgive me? _____

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

When God knocks on the door of my heart, what do I need to do?

_____ and _____

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)

To give my life to Jesus, with my mouth I must _____

And in my heart I must _____

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (ESV)

What must I do to be saved? _____
(This means to pray to Jesus and ask Him to be the Lord of your life.)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John 1:12 (ESV)

How Can I Become a child of God? _____

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)
(Grace is “a special and undeserved favor from God.)

I begin to follow Jesus by placing my _____ **in Him.**

The faith I have doesn’t come from inside me, it comes from _____

Part 2: Baptism

1. What 4 things did Christ Command in Matthew 28:18-20?

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ 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,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

1 _____ 3 _____
2 _____ 4 _____

2. Who Was Baptized?

Peter spoke to a large crowd and said: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 (ESV)

Which ones among the crowd did Peter say should be baptized?

Those who received [Peter’s message about Jesus] were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41 (ESV)

What did these people do before being baptized? _____

As they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”³⁷ And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may” And the eunuch replied, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.”³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. Acts 8:36-38 (ESV)

As Philip was walking down the road, he overheard a government official of great authority reading from Isaiah 53:7-8. Philip asked this man if he understood what he was reading. And the man did not... so Peter explained the Gospel of Jesus to him, and the man believed in Jesus.

What did Peter say was necessary for this man to be Baptized?

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8 (ESV)

Who was Baptized? _____

(...was everyone in the family automatically baptized ...or was there an advance requirement?)

And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. Acts 16:29-34 (ESV)

Who was Baptized? _____

What did each of these people need to do before being baptized?

3. Jesus commanded us to practice two special observances: These are Baptism, and The Lord's Supper.

Each of these observances is an outward ceremony that symbolizes a spiritual truth or experience.

What qualifies me to be baptized? _____

Will getting baptized save me from my sins? _____

Why do I want to be baptized?

4. Being baptized is a public declaration that Jesus is your Savior and that you have chosen to live for Him! It's like hanging a sign around your neck that says, "JESUS LIVES HERE!"

Through baptism I identify with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection.

a. The water closing over you during baptism symbolizes death and being buried. You identify with Christ in His death and burial.

When you're sorry for your past sins, repent (turn away from them), believe in Jesus as Savior and invite Him into your life... you are symbolically crucified with Him.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

What does it mean that I have been crucified with Christ?

b. Rising out of the water symbolizes resurrection... rising to a new life!

When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.

⁵ Christ died, and we have been joined with him by dying too. So we will also be joined with him by rising from the dead as he did. Romans 6:4-5 (NCV)

2 Benefits of Joining in Christ's Resurrection:

(1) Now: I can live a _____

(2) Later: When I die physically I will be joined with Christ by:

Our English word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptidzo." This is a verb which rendered literally means, "to immerse" ...as in "to immerse in water." When the Bible text refers to "baptism," it's actually referring to "being dunked under water!" What a great symbol of death to self and re-birth in Christ! ...and an awesome symbol of solidarity among all who profess their faith in Jesus!

Part 3: The Lord's Supper

1. What does the Bible teach about the Lord's Supper?

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV)

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (ESV)

- A. The bread represents (or symbolizes) Jesus' _____
- B. What do we remember when we eat the bread? _____
- C. The juice represents (is likened unto) Jesus' _____
- D. What do we remember when we drink the juice? _____
- E. What should we do before we participate in the Lord's Supper?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:21-24 (ESV)

- F. Who may participate in the Lord's Supper? _____

2. When I Participate In The Lord's Supper: (circle all that apply)

- a. I'm eating the body and blood of Jesus Christ
- b. I remember the suffering and love of Jesus Christ.
- c. I am supposed to be appropriately prepared.
- d. My sins are forgiven because I eat the bread and drink the cup.
- e. I celebrate and thank God that my sins have already been forgiven because Christ is my Savior.
- f. I actively remember that Jesus died for my sins.

Part 4: Living Like A Christian

Learning To Walk With Jesus:

John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another. John 15:1-17 (ESV)

1. Who Is The True Vine? _____
2. Who is the Branch? _____
3. What does Jesus want us to produce? _____
4. What can you do spiritually apart from Jesus? _____
5. How can you remain in Jesus' love? _____
6. What does Jesus want us to experience each day? _____
7. How Can we be Jesus' Friend? _____
8. How are we to treat one another? _____

Part 5: What If I Was Baptized As A Baby?

We're glad that your parents chose to raise you in a manner that emphasizes the importance of God and spiritual things. This means that they recognize the importance of honoring God with their lives, and they would want you to honor God with your life.

We believe that followers of Jesus should honor God in every aspect of their lives... This is why we base our lives, and our practices, on the teachings of God's Word. The Bible is our source of authority in all that we teach and practice. As we read about baptism in the Bible, the teaching and the practice of the early church was that people first committed their lives to Jesus, and baptism followed as a public declaration of their new faith.

If you were baptized as a baby, you obviously weren't expressing your personal faith in God. Your parents were expressing their desire that you live your life in the knowledge, appreciation and love of God. They wanted you to share their belief that God loves you and desires to have a relationship with you.

Baptism, in the Bible, is a sign or a symbol that a person already believes in Jesus Christ as their Leader, Forgiver, Savior, and Lord. It's a public means of identifying oneself as a Christ follower and saying that your life is committed to Jesus. Baptism is also the public means of identifying with other Christ followers. It is a matter of relational solidarity among true Christians. Jesus commanded that we should be baptized for these reasons. Of course, there is also the matter of simple obedience to Jesus, since He commanded us to do it in Matthew 28:19.

Your decision to be baptized now that you've chosen to follow Jesus doesn't change/alter/or take away anything from your infant baptism. Your baptism as a believing adult is a separate event in your life. It's actually the next step in your natural progression of becoming responsible for, and "owning," your personal faith in Jesus Christ. Your parents would want your faith journey to continue down this natural path where you choose to have a close personal faith in Jesus. And now here you are!

Thank your parents for getting your spiritual journey started! Explain to them that you've chosen to fully embrace faith in Jesus, and to live your life for Him! Wasn't that their long term hope when they had you baptized as a baby?

Invite your family to join you and witness your baptism! They will hear you share your testimony and you can introduce them to your church family! They can share the joy and enthusiasm you have in living your life for Jesus!

Part 6: Preparing Your Baptism Testimony

“Testimony” literally means:

“A proof, evidence or witness of an action, condition, or state of being.”

Sharing Your Testimony About Becoming A Christian:

Your testimony is the story of how you became a Christian or a follower of Christ. Please write down your story. Tell us how you asked Jesus into your heart. If you don't have any idea how to do this, here is an outline to follow. If you use your own outline please be sure to cover each of these points, so be about 4-5 minutes long. Please don't go over the time limit, as it affects the audience's ability to listen equally well to each person sharing their testimony on that day.

1. **What made me aware that I needed and wanted to have my sins forgiven and caused me to be open to learning about Jesus?**
2. **What circumstances and/or people helped me realize that I needed Jesus in my life?** (how did the circumstances or people help me with that?)
3. **When Jesus died on the Cross, what did He do for me?**
4. **What does it mean to me that Jesus was willing to die for my sins?**
5. **Specifically when did I confess my sins to Jesus and ask Him to become my Forgiver/Leader and Savior? ...what circumstances led up to that?**

It's really important that you describe how you came to understand that your sins couldn't be forgiven except by Jesus.

You also need to relate how you knew that you had to give control of your life to Jesus in order to get to heaven.

The point at which you “surrendered” to Jesus was a “turning point” in your life. You came to Him for the forgiveness of your sins. You admitted to Him your complete inability to achieve salvation on your own. You acknowledged that without Him you can't enter heaven.

People need to hear you describe how that process came about in your life.

5. **If someone asks me, “How do I know I'm a Christian and that I'll go to heaven when I die?” I'd tell them . . .**
6. **At this present time in my life, I see Jesus doing...** (what do I see Him doing in my life?)
7. **In the coming years I want Jesus to...** (what do I want Him to accomplish in my life?)
8. **A Bible verse that encourages me as I live for Christ is...
...and explain how it helps me!**

Do not skip the Scripture part of your testimony!

You will read your carefully (and prayerfully) written testimony to our church family prior to being dunked! God will speak to people's hearts through your story in awesome and miraculous ways!!

Part 7: Crossroads Baptism Instructions:

2019.1

WHAT TO WEAR and WHAT TO EXPECT on Baptism Day:

1. Begin the service wearing the clothes you'll be baptized in.
2. You may wear shorts or long pants. We suggest that you wear a t-shirt or button up shirt, but be sure it is not white since white becomes see through when it gets wet.
3. Ladies & girls... It's a good idea to wear your swimsuit under your clothes.
4. Wear sandals or flip flops on your feet. Easy off before going in the tank, easy on once you come out of the tank!
5. Bring a complete set of clothes to change into after you get out of the tank. You will feel cold and will want to change into something dry. This is what you'll be wearing when people congratulate you at the end of the service...
6. You may store these in the bathroom under the counter, or in the auditorium in a bag along the North wall... Do not leave any valuables unsupervised.
7. Bring two large towels. One to cover yourself and dry off with immediately as you come out of the water... and one to leave with your change of clothes.
8. Bring a plastic bag to carry your wet clothes home in.
9. Bring a comb or brush for your hair.
10. Ladies, you won't have time for hair dryers or make-up. 😞
11. When more than one person is being baptized, you will each share your testimony one after the other...
12. Following the last testimony, we will baptize you one in the same order!
13. Don't forget to bring your written testimony with you on the day of your baptism!
14. Remember your testimony should be about 4-5 minutes long. Please do not go over the time limit, as it affects the audience's ability to listen equally well to each person being sharing their testimony on that day.
15. Parents may participate in their child's baptism!
16. If you so desire... you may invite your Life Group to stand up front with you during your testimony, and also when you're being baptized. Please tell the pastor or an elder about this before the service begins.
17. Experience Joy! Jesus said, “These things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.” John 17:13 (ESV)