

Baptism/Child Dedication Guidelines

We are looking forward to an amazing night of baptism at each campus! We can't wait to hear the stories of those being baptized, and those dedicating their children! Below are some guidelines to help ensure a memorable baptism and child dedication experience!

Preparing for the Baptism/Child Dedication Event:

- Choose a location for the event. We highly encourage a setting that looks inspiring and inviting, such as outdoors at a lake or on a beach. We also encourage a public place to ensure those who are being baptized have the opportunity to make a public declaration of their faith.
- Announce the date of your Baptism event at least 4 weeks prior. Include at different parts of the service to encourage people to register.
- Encourage those who are registered to invite their family and friends.
- Registration for baptism and child dedication will be through our CE website, by using a CE Response Card in the service, or by signing up at the Baptism table. (Please send a copy of the list to Mission Support to add to master list.)
- Mission Support will send those registering for baptism a PDF explaining baptism, along with campus specific details for the baptism event.
- Mission Support then provides Lead Pastors with a list of those registered for baptism.
- For two weeks leading up to the baptism event, designate a table in the lobby to hand out baptism t-shirts to those who are registered, and to allow anyone who has not registered yet the opportunity to do so. Those registered will receive an email to pick up a t-shirt on the weekend prior to the event. Everyone being baptized is to wear their baptism shirt to the baptism event.
- Designate a leader to oversee baptism on the day of the event.
- Designate three leaders to take pictures and film the event.

What to Bring to the Event:

- Clipboard with names of those being baptized and names of children being dedicated, along with their parents' names. A pen to check people in.
- Nametags for each person being baptized, along with a sharpie to write names. (Recommended to prewrite names before event!)
- Extra baptism shirts (provided by Mission Support).
- Just Baptized/Just Dedicated Pop Sign (provided by Mission Support).
- Child Dedication books (provided by Mission Support).
- Certificates for those being baptized (provided by Mission Support).

First Love
*Dream Big, Take Risks,
Expect Jesus To Show Up*
Everything Speaks
Character Defines Culture
*Strengthening The Core
For Immovable Love*
From One Matters
No Translation Required
Enjoy Every Moment
Humor For More Life Change
Whatever It Takes

Day of Baptism:

- Designated leader checks in those who are being baptized and dedicated. Ensures they each have a nametag placed on their left shoulder. For families dedicating, the parents should have a nametag.
- Leader will hand each family that is dedicating a child their personalized certificate and a book.
- Leader will also ensure each person being baptized is wearing their baptism t-shirt.
- Prior to the baptism event, invite those dedicating their child (or children) to come forward. The Lead Pastor will invite the parents to hold their babies and place their hands on their children while they pray a prayer of dedication along with the Lead Pastor.
- After the child dedication, invite those who are being baptized to come forward.
- Lead Pastors are asked to teach briefly on baptism and share the Gospel at the baptism event so that everyone being baptized has a clear understanding of the step they are taking. This should be a 4-12 minute devotional length.
- There should be two people in the water with those being baptized. The pastor will stand on the left of the person being baptized.
- The person opposite the pastor in the water will give instructions to individuals being baptized on how to hold their arms. We recommend that they grab their right elbow with their left hand and grab their nose with their right hand.
- As individuals are being baptized, there should be someone in the water filming, as well as someone on shore filming, and one person taking pictures.
- A Just Baptized/Just Dedicated pop sign is used to take pictures after each individual is dedicated or baptized. We suggest taking this shot as individuals are coming out of the water.

Recommendations for Parents Who Would Like Their Under 12 Year Old Child to be Baptized:

- Church Experience recommends baptism for those over the age of 12.
- Encourage the parents to do child dedication first. If the child waits until they are 12 years of age or older, they will have a deeper understanding, it will be more impactful, and it will carry them into those high school/early adult years.
- If they still want to have their child be baptized, they can, but look to do the baptism at another time other than the actual baptism event.
- This will prevent those who did not baptize their child from being discouraged when the baptism video is played during the following Sunday's service.

Check out previous baptism event videos on the Church Experience YouTube channel for inspiration and direction.