



Next Generation Kids Baptism Information

If your child shows interest in baptism, here are some things you might talk about with them.

What is Baptism?

1. Baptism is an action that shows others you are a follower of Jesus.

Baptism is a way for you to show others that you believe in, love and follow Jesus. It shows others that you belong to God and that you are serious about your relationship with Him.

2. Baptism is a way to be more like Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17 tells us the story of when Jesus was baptized. When you get baptized, you are following Jesus' example, which is one way to be more like Him!

3. Jesus tells us to get baptized.

In Matthew 28:19, it says "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Jesus is telling us in these verses that He wants everyone who believes in Him to be baptized. In the New Testament, when someone believed in Jesus, they got baptized.

4. Baptism does not save us!

You can only be saved through believing in Jesus. "Saved" means that Jesus has taken the punishment for your sins and that you have been forgiven of all your sins. It also means that you are a part of God's Kingdom and God's Family and you will live forever with Him. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

Next steps:

1. Pray with your child. Encourage your child to talk to God about this and to ask God to help them know if they are ready to get baptized. Spend some time together with them in prayer talking to God about baptism.

2. Sit down with your child and have them write out their story (or draw pictures of their story). Ask them to explain what Jesus means to them and why they believe in Him. Ask them to explain why they want to get baptized. (If your child does decide to get baptized, at the ceremony they will need to share a sentence or two about why they want to get baptized.)

3. Remember there is no "magic" age that kids need to get baptized. All kids are different. Some may have questions about baptism at a younger age, others may wait until they are older. Don't panic or worry about this, and don't push the issue if they aren't ready. We want the decision to be baptized to be theirs. We also want them to be baptized when they are sincere about it and when they have a deep desire to do so.

4. Make their Baptism a special event.

Think about a few different ways you could make this event memorable and meaningful for you

child. Here are a few ideas:

- a. Consider asking your child's Baptism Sponsor (or someone else with a special relationship to your child) to write a letter of encouragement to your child to give to them on the day of their baptism.
- b. Consider taking a picture of your child and have it framed with the date of their baptism.
- c. Choose a symbol that reminds your child about their baptism. (Write the date of their baptism on a rock and put in their room, or have your child keep the white towel they used when they were baptized.)
- d. Invite family and friends to the ceremony to watch and give them encouragement.
- e. Plan a celebration dinner for the afternoon after their baptism.