

# BAPTISM PACKET

**1.** This Baptism packet is designed to provide you with all the information you need to direct you through the baptism process here at Richview. We have separated out our process into eight simple steps. But since the first one is about making sure you pick up the packet, and you have obviously already done that, then there are only seven steps left. You are making great progress!

**2. Sign Up -** Grab a pen and get ready to sign your life away! Just joking! Right where you picked up this brochure there should be a **Baptism Card**. We need you to sign that card and put it in offering plate or turn into office. Some people sign up because they are convinced that baptism is what they need to do. There is no stopping them. Some people sign up because they are curious. They are not sure about all the reasons for and their personal role in baptism but they are courageous enough to take some steps to learn more. We applaud that! So whether you're curious or committed we'd encourage you to go for it and sign up.

You will need to record some pertinent information such as your name, phone number, e-mail address and so on. This will help us all take the next steps in the process.

So now you can relax a bit. We are going to contact you.

**3. Attend the Baptism Class** – Imagine a room with energized people in it who are curious and nervous (or both) and are all fired up to learn more about baptism. That's the Baptism Class.

What Will The Baptism Class Include? This hour-long meeting includes a teaching time, a small study guide, instructions on how events will unfold on the day of the baptism, the completion of the baptism info sheet, and an opportunity for questions and answers.

Where And When Will The Class Be Held? Generally, the class is held on our church board room about two weeks prior to the baptism.

What If I Can't Be At The Class? Hey, we understand only too well how difficult it is to schedule something that fits into everyone's calendar.

Actually, from time to time there are enough people who can't attend the class that we schedule a second class. Of course sometimes people can't make that one work either and then we schedule another . . . You get the picture? Our commitment is to spend some time with you that will allow you to understand the Biblical teaching on baptism and the practical process we go through to make it work here in our setting. If you can't make it to the class then we will come to you and make it work in as small as a one to one context.

Can I Meet With Someone After The Class If I Have More Questions?

Absolutely.

**4. Write Up Your Spiritual Story** - Now, right away a lot of people get freaked. "I'm not a writer!" "My spiritual story is a drag!" "I don't know how to do this!" Hey, that's cool. Guess what? You're pretty normal. We find this step in the process to be one of the most important. (Obviously the baptisms are most important but believe it or else this one is a pretty close second!) And because we are pumped up about this we are going to do all we can to help you articulate what God has done and is doing in your life.

So to get it written down here are some of the ways we are committed to helping you. First, we are going to teach you how to write up your life story when you attend the baptism class. Second, we are going to provide you with some models you can read through. (Please don't copy the model and replace the name in it with your name. We know who you are. We know where you live.) Third, if you don't want to write or are completely illiterate (Pretty hard to prove your illiterate if you just read this far the brochure!) you can just tell one of us your story and we will write it up for you. (Fourth, there is a written explanation of *How To Write Your Spiritual Story* available to help you. Fifth, we may edit your story. It is one of those grammar things some of us need help with. We'll make sure it says what you want it to say.

So go for it. Write it up and forward it to the church office. You can e-mail it or you can snail mail it to the church or send it by courier pigeon or deliver it or whatever. We would love it if you can get it to us at least a week before your baptism.

Your story will go in our *Tales Of Wonder* book in which we are gathering hundreds of spiritual stories.

**5. Pick Out A Promise Verse Reader** – With our baptisms one of the neat elements takes place when a friend or family member reads a Biblical promise to the candidate just before we baptize. This is a special moment as a God promise is expressed in a very personal manner.

Now, you can find a verse for your reader to share or you can ask them to find and share one for you. When the reader arrives for your baptism we will make sure they know the order of service and where it is that they get to do their thing.

**SAMPLE PROMISE VERSES YOU COULD CHOOSE FROM**

Proverbs 3:5-6; Zephaniah 3:17; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 1:17; Philippians 1:6;  
Philippians 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

**6. Be Baptized** - It's about time, eh? First, arrive at the church at least 20 minutes before the service begins. Bring clothing you don't mind getting wet (T shirt and shorts, or track pants and whatever are just fine), a towel, a hair dryer

and so on. We will supply you with an extra towel and a private place to change. Second, when you arrive go to where the baptism is to take place. You will meet the others being baptized and the process for the morning will be explained then. If you are using a gown you will receive it then. At this point we will provide you with an order of service for your reader to follow and explain when the baptism is happening in the service.

**7. Have Your Picture Taken** - After the baptism service has ended you can gather all your friends and family together and we'll take some photos. When they are developed we'll make sure you get a copy or two as a reminder of this special day. Oh, and a little later on we'll forward you a Baptism Certificate. It's just a little something to remind you that you marked yourself as a follower of Jesus through baptism.

**8. Live The Life** - Living the life is something Christ followers must always be doing. But for many the baptism experience is a kind of life marker that acts as a reminder of whose they are. Life now, more than before, is an opportunity to live so that Jesus is clearly seen as your life leader and sin forgiver.