



Baptism

We are so excited that you're thinking through this step of baptism. Praise God for how He's working! We are here to help in any way that we possibly can as you look to follow Jesus.

The Gospel

- God / Man / Christ / Response

Baptism

What is it? A believer's act of publicly committing to Jesus and His people through immersion

1. Going under the water (*Matthew 3:13-17*)
2. It is a picture of Christ's death and resurrection (*Romans 6:3-5*)
3. It is a believer's proclamation with Jesus. (i.e. think of a team jersey)

Why is it important? 3 reasons

1. To obey Christ's command (*Matt. 28:18-20*)
2. To witness to what Christ did (*Col. 2:11-12*)
3. To commit yourself to Christ and His people (*Acts 2:39-47*)

Who's it for? For every person who has ever believed in Jesus.

How should a person be baptized? At West Bridge, we believe that the best way is by immersion.

When should a person be baptized? If you've trusted in Jesus and turned from your sin, you should be baptized as soon as you're able (*Acts 22:16*).

Questions?

Next Steps:

1. Baptism form (if you've not filled out, then please do so)!
2. Meet with a pastor/staff member so you can share your story
3. Get baptized
4. Consider church membership

Taking it a little further...

Consider writing out your story of how God saved you from your sin:

1. Before I met Jesus:
 - a. "I sinned by ____" (in what ways did you realize that you were sinning against God?)
2. When I met Jesus:
 - a. I learned I needed forgiveness, and that only Jesus could save me.
 - b. Who helped you learn that you needed to be forgiven?
3. After I met Jesus:
 - a. My life is changed, He forgave me and created me to worship him (to live in relationship with Him)
 - b. How has He changed you? What have you learned?

Consider spending some time reading, examining, and praying through the following passages. Along with each passage, there are questions to consider.

Romans 6:1–14

1. How are Christians joined with Christ? (hint...see v. 4)
2. Why are Christians joined with Christ? (hint...look for the phrase “so” or “so that”)
3. By what power was Christ raised from the dead?
4. This passage teaches us about our identity in Christ. Our ‘identity in Christ’ means who we are because of our relationship with Him. Using these verses, fill in the chart below:

Without Christ, what words/phrases describe me and my life?	Because of being united with Christ, what is true about me now?

5. What did you learn about baptism in this passage?

Read Colossians 2:9–15

Did you notice some of the opposites in these verses: buried/raised, dead/alive? What does this show you about what happens when you become a Christian?

1. Before you became a Christian, you had no power to say no to sin. Sin was your boss! When we become a Christian, we are not automatically perfect. But what does this passage say about the Christian’s relation to sin?
2. Faith is *being 100% sure that what God says is true even if we can’t see it or understand it completely*. What does this passage say about faith?
3. Circle or write down all the action words (verbs) that Christ did. What did Christ accomplish?
4. If Christ accomplished all these things, what does that mean for Christians?
5. What are the two parts of baptism (think back to the opposites listed above)?
6. What do they represent?

Encouragement for Parents:

How do I know if my child is a Christian? If a person says they love and trust Jesus, we take it at face value. We know that Jesus loves all students and desires to save them, so we're eager to welcome them to him and baptize them. At the same time, we don't want students to pursue baptism simply because their parents want them to be baptized. We want to baptize believers whom God has saved and changed. As you consider whether or not your student is ready, consider using these questions to gain some general understanding :

- Conviction about sin - Is your student grieved when they sin because their sin is against the Lord? Or is there hardness? Indifference? Unrepentant rebellion? Does your student see that they have sinned against both God and others? Is there a willingness to admit wrongs, apologize, ask for forgiveness and forgive others when necessary? Does your student confess to God as well as to you?
- Understanding of the gospel - Does your student understand that they cannot save themselves? Does your student understand that their sin deserves death and punishment? Does your student understand that Jesus died as a substitute for their sins? Does your student understand that one is saved only by God's grace and not because of any good within themselves? Could they articulate the gospel to you?
- New life and desire for God - Have you seen a change in them (even small)? Does your student demonstrate a genuine desire to learn about God and love him? Does he/she pray or read the Scriptures on their own initiative? Does your student *desire* to obey God's commands? Do they demonstrate spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, humility, service)? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident to others? Are they growing in these areas?