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## **Next Step**

Baptism is the next step for anyone who has decided to follow Jesus. It tells the story of a new life that's been changed by Jesus Christ.

Baptism doesn't save you. Only Jesus does.

All it takes to receive Jesus is to turn toward him. This is called **repentance**. *(If you haven't done that already, you can do that right now. Trust that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to forgive you of your sins and make you brand new. Ask Jesus to make his home in your heart and help you follow him for all of your days).*

If you'd like, write down or share your story of when you received Christ and how he's changing your life right now.

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## **Not an Option**

In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to baptize believers ([Matthew 28:16-20](#)). If Jesus commands it, we're going to do it!

Baptism is not recommended, it's commanded. It's NOT an option!

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## **Immediately**

Baptism should happen immediately after trusting in Jesus. ([Acts 2:38, 41](#); [Acts 8:12-13](#); [Acts 8:36-38](#); [Acts 9:18](#); [Acts 10:47-48](#); [Acts 16:33](#), [Acts 22:16](#))

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## Identity

Even Jesus was baptized. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on him and the voice of his Father in heaven declared, “You are my beloved Son.” God declares his identity before he had accomplished anything (*Matthew 3:13-17*).

When you are baptized, God wants you to know that YOU are his beloved son/daughter. God loves you just as much as he loves Jesus (*John 17:23*). That’s your identity!

Jesus wasn’t baptized because he needed to turn from sin. Jesus was baptized to identify with sinners (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).

When we are baptized, we are publically identifying with Christ. It’s just like wearing your favorite team jersey.

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## Buried & Raised

Baptism is a vivid picture of Jesus’ death and resurrection (*Romans 6:3-4*).

Baptism symbolizes how our old life is buried with Christ and our new life is raised with Christ.

This is why we baptize by immersion. The original word *baptizo* means to fully plunge or submerge. Not only is this the biblical model of baptism, it most clearly paints the picture of resurrection and new life. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

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## **Celebration**

Baptism is how we welcome newly changed lives into the family of God. Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God (*Ephesians 4:4-6*).

This is not a somber religious event, but a celebration that is worth remembering for a lifetime.

We are celebrating Jesus' victory in a person's life. It's like a Gatorade shower that a coach receives after a big game – it's a celebration, exciting evidence of a victory that's already been won!

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## **FAQs**

### **Does Trinity Worship Center baptize infants?**

We do not baptize infants at Trinity Worship Center. Since we hold that baptism is a next step AFTER trusting in Jesus for salvation and because there is no biblical precedent, this makes infant baptism an unviable option.

### **What is the recommended age for a child to be baptized?**

We ask that a child be 8 years old before they consider water baptism. We want to ensure that the child fully understands their salvation and the meaning of baptism before they take their next step. Baptism is more meaningful and memorable when this guideline is followed.

### **Should I be re-baptized?**

If you have already been baptized by immersion as a believer in Christ, there is no need to be re-baptized. If you were baptized before trusting in Christ or as an infant, you should be baptized. If you were baptized by sprinkling, you may choose to be baptized again by the biblical model of immersion.

### **Do I have to be a church member to be baptized?**

No. We simply ask that you have put your trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.



### **What should I wear?**

Dress in clothes that you don't mind getting completely wet. We recommend a dark T-Shirt and dark shorts. You should bring a towel and a change of clothes. There will be a changing room available. You'll want to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled baptism for final instructions and prayer.

### **What do I say when I am baptized?**

We'll ask you 2 questions when you're in the water. First, "Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" Second, "And with his help are you ready to follow Him for the rest of your life?" If you respond, "yes" to both of these questions, we'll dip you right after. In some cases, we may allow you to share how Jesus has changed your life in 1 or 2 sentences.

### **Can I invite my family?**

Absolutely! We encourage you to bring your family every week to Trinity Worship Center, but especially on your baptism day. This is an important moment in your life and we want all of your loved ones to celebrate with us.

### **Where and when can I sign up?**

Listen for the announcement or check [trinityworship.net](http://trinityworship.net) for the next baptism date. We usually host baptisms every 6-8 weeks on Sunday Mornings. If you haven't already, you can sign up at Sign Up Central.

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