

What is **BAPTISM?**

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament (an outward sign of inward grace) that marks our entrance into the family of faith. This sacrament serves as an outward sign of repentance, a symbol that our old life is washed away, and a public declaration that we now belong to Jesus and want to follow Him.

Our church practices baptism by sprinkling, pouring, or immersing someone in baptismal water.

Talking with Your Kids and Students About Baptism

Baptism is one of the most important steps your child can take in following Jesus. But kids and students often need help understanding what baptism is, why it matters, and what it means for their everyday lives.

Use the simple explanations and conversation prompts below to help you lead meaningful, age-appropriate conversations at home.

1. START WITH THE BIG PICTURE

What is baptism?

"Baptism is the way followers of Jesus have publicly joined his family all the way back to the early church. From the very beginning, even on the day of Pentecost, shortly after Jesus rose back to life, people expressed their faith by being baptized" (Acts 2:37–41).

Kid conversation prompt:

"Why do you think Jesus wanted his followers to be baptized?"

"What do you notice when people get baptized at our church?"

Student conversation prompt:

"Why do you think baptism was the very first step for new believers in the early church?"

"What message do you think baptism sends to the world?"

2. TALK ABOUT WHAT BAPTISM SHOWS

Baptism is a picture of surrender and us moving from a life lived for ourselves into a life that belongs to God. It shows that:

Our sins are washed away (Hebrews 10:19–22; 1 Peter 3:21).

We join the family of God and become part of the church universal (1 Corinthians 12:12–13).

We are united with Jesus, sharing in his new life (Gal. 3:26–28).

Paul explains it powerfully:

When we're baptized, we're joined to Jesus's death and resurrection. We "die" to the old life ruled by sin and rise to a new life shaped by God's will and love (Romans 6:1–4).

Kid conversation prompt:

"What does it feel like when you wash off dirt after playing outside? How might baptism be like that for our sins?"

Student conversation prompt:

"What part of your 'old life' is hardest to leave behind as you follow Jesus?"

"How does joining the church family change the way you live?"

3. EXPLAIN THAT BAPTISM STARTS A JOURNEY

Baptism isn't just something you do, but is the beginning of a new and transformed life.

Paul teaches that baptism sets the tone for the whole Christian life, and Pastor Martin Luther described baptism as a "garment" we put on every day, in which we lay aside our old self and grow into a new one (Larger Catechism IV, 41).

Kid conversation prompt:

"What does it mean to grow more like Jesus each day?"

Student conversation prompt:

"How does your baptism shape the choices you make at school, with friends, or online?"

4. ENCOURAGE THEM TO REMEMBER THEIR BAPTISM

Even though baptism happens only once, remembering it is powerful. You can help your kids and Students start each day with a simple truth:

"I am baptized. I belong to Christ. I've died to one kind of life so I can live a new life in the Spirit. Today, by the Spirit's help, I will live as God's instrument of righteousness" (Romans 6:11–23).

Kid conversation prompt:

"What helps you remember that you belong to Jesus?"

Student conversation prompt:

"What part of following Jesus do you want to focus on growing in right now?"

Other Scriptures you can read together

- Acts 2:37–39
- Galatians 3:27–28
- Colossians 2:11–14
- Hebrews 10:19–22