

# baptism



# congratulations



**If you are reading this book, then you have an interest in following God's command in taking the next step of obedience in Baptism.**

**Parents:** This is an exciting time for you and your child as they take the next step in their spiritual journey. We are honored to walk with you and your child during this spiritual milestone. This booklet is designed to help prepare your child for the act of baptism. Allow your child to read through the booklet and grasp each section. Make yourself available to help, but try to have your child work through the answers on their own.

Woodside Bible's Mission is to **"Help people Belong to Christ, Grow in Christ, and Reach the world for Christ."** And our Woodside Kids Ministry is here to **"Partner with the family to help kids embrace an authentic relationship with Christ."**

To embrace an authentic relationship with Jesus is to respond to God's Grace and His gift of the Gospel. If your child has not yet trusted Christ as their personal Savior, we encourage you to patiently pray and continue to talk with them about the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Please use the booklet *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* by LifeWay to discuss Salvation and be patient and ask good questions as you seek to hear from your child how they understand the Gospel in their words.

Please view both the Gospel Booklet and this Baptism Booklet as tools that might assist you in having this important discussion with your child. And remember, it is the role of the Holy Spirit to remind and convict humanity of their sin. **When your child is aware of his/her sin and the need to accept God's grace and forgiveness, then he/she is ready to make this important decision.**

If your child has made a decision to trust Christ with their life, then baptism could be the next step. We don't believe there is a designated age for a child to be baptized, but we do believe that the child must have a full understanding of and can articulate in his own words the concepts of salvation and baptism. Each child's story is unique, but we recommend the third grade and above for baptism.



# why

## WHY DO PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?

**People get baptized to show others that they have become a Christian and have 'Responded' to the Good News.**

**It is important to know that B\_\_\_\_\_ cannot get you to heaven. We can only get to heaven through responding to God's grace which we receive by faith.**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** (ESV) says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

# Salvation

Baptism isn't to be confused with salvation. It is only through confession of our sin and belief in Jesus to save us from our sin that we can experience the gift of eternal life. We can respond to the Good News by understanding who God is (a holy God) and who we are (sinners). We may frame our response to God using the ABC's of salvation.

## A - ADMIT

**Admit to God that you are a sinner.**

## B - BELIEVE

**Believe that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin. Believe that Jesus died and rose again to pay for your sins.**

## C - CONFESS

**Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**



# God's plan for me

(fill in the phrase that matches the icon)



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# The Gospel

## Another reason people get baptized is obedience.

We get baptized to O \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

**Matthew 28:19** (ESV) says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is a P \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's Death, Burial, and Resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** (ESV) says, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

Going under the water is a symbol of Christ being buried in the tomb. Coming up out of the water is a picture of Christ being raised on the third day.

# who

## Who can be baptized?

**People who have joined God's F\_\_\_\_\_ can be baptized.**

**John 1:12** (ESV) says, "But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Did you know that only those who have trusted in Jesus as their rescuer need to be baptized? Why? Because baptism is an outward symbol of an inward commitment!

**Baptism I \_\_\_\_\_ you with Christ.**

**Romans 6:4** (ESV) says, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

When you wear a baseball hat or your school's T-shirt, you are telling everyone that you are loyal to a team or belong to that school. When you are baptized, you're telling everyone that you are identifying yourself with Jesus.

# how

## How is a person baptized?

**The method for baptism is immersion, meaning**  
**“U \_\_\_\_\_ the water”**

According to **Matthew 3:16** (ESV), “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.”

Being under the water and then coming up best illustrates Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Remember, being completely underwater represents Jesus in the tomb. Coming up out of the water represents Jesus rising again on the third day!



Now that you know the important facts  
about baptism, you may wonder...

# What happens at Baptism?

- 1. You get to put on (and keep!) a cool T-shirt.**
- 2. You get to step into the “baptismal tank” or pool.**
- 3. You read your “Jesus story” or answer the questions.**
- 4. You hold your nose, and the Pastor gently lowers you under the water and back up again!**
- 5. Everyone celebrates!**
- 6. You dry off! (Sorry, no cannon balls!)**



# So, what is the Next Step?

## Have you received Jesus as your Savior?

If yes, continue. If no, ask yourself, "Why not?" If you have more questions, talk to a parent, your small group leader, or a staff member at Woodside Bible Church.

## If you have received Jesus as your Savior, would you like to be baptized?

If yes, continue. If no, ask yourself, "Why not?" If you have more questions, don't hesitate to talk with someone!

**If you would like to be baptized**, talk with your Woodside Kids Staff to set it up.

# the process

## Understanding Baptism & Kids Baptism

**Families should read through the entire booklet and discuss what it means to be baptized.**

The child should then complete the Kids Baptism Application and write out their Jesus story. Your Jesus story is the situation and time where you realized you needed Jesus as your personal Savior. (The Kids Baptism Application is available at the Check-In Desk.)

Once completed, return the application to a Woodside Kids Staff Member and you will be contacted to schedule a meeting with a Pastor or Kids Director.

# Meet a Pastor

This isn't like going to the principal's office. It's actually kind of fun. The Kids Pastor or Kids Director will meet with the parent and child. This is a time to discuss baptism, answer any questions, and to hear your child's story. There will be an opportunity for membership following baptism.

# Schedule Baptism

The Kids Pastor or Kids Director will work with the church staff to schedule the baptism.





# celebrate the milestone

Your child will receive a certificate from Woodside Bible Church upon completion of their baptism, but we want to encourage you to celebrate this spiritual milestone in a significant way as well.

Some parents have marked this moment with a party for family and friends, or a special gift like a Bible, necklace, or a letter or card. Be creative! Express how proud you are of them and affirm their obedience to God. Make a list of people you would like to invite and give them an invitation card!

**Again, we are excited to share this time with you and your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.**



**we obey**







 **KIDS**