



WATER BAPTISM EXPLANATION

Parent(s): Please carefully read this document on Baptism to make certain you and your child understand baptism; that you qualify for it; and that you understand our procedure for baptism here at Living Word.

Who may be baptized? Anyone who has made a genuine, full commitment of their life to Christ may (and should) be baptized. *You should have a very clear conviction that your child has made a decisive commitment to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior.* Children, teenagers and adults may be baptized. In the case of children, we ask that they be at least 8 years of age; and that their parent(s) fill out the Children's Baptism Application at the time of sign up. If you were baptized as an infant, but have now made a commitment of your life to Christ, we encourage you to be baptized.

What is baptism? Baptism is a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is also a symbol of your decision to follow Jesus. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. Baptism is not how you get to heaven, and does not make someone a Christian, or a part of God's family, or a member in the church. That is why we don't baptize infants. Baptism is a sign and symbol of your decision to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Parent: During the Children's Baptism Class, we will talk about symbols. A symbol is something that stands for something else: flag, road sign, cross. If baptism is a symbol, what does it represent? Romans 6:3-5

Why be baptized? Jesus was baptized, so we follow His example. Jesus told us to be baptized. By getting baptized you are following a command that Jesus gave you. You will be baptized in front of many people. By being baptized, you are saying to those people "Jesus is in charge of my life."

Parent: Receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord is a most important time for a child. Your child needs to understand why he/she wants to be baptized. If your child is dependent on you to talk about these things, it would be wise for he/she to wait.

How do we baptize? We believe that total immersion under the water is best because it is true to the meaning of what baptism symbolizes - death and new life.

Parent: The word baptize means "to put in the water." Your child will be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit because each has a part in our salvation.

When should I be baptized? In the Bible, most people were baptized soon after they made a commitment of their life to Christ. The only requirement is to know in one's heart that they are genuinely committed to Him. If that is true for you, then now is the time to be baptized.

Parent: Baptism is a second step. We get baptized because we first believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Some good questions to get your son/daughter talking about their faith: How do you know God loves you? What did Jesus do for you? If Jesus is your Lord and King, what do your actions and life look like? Why do you want to follow Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him?

How do I prepare for my baptism? Attend the Children's Baptism Class. We want to ensure that your child fully understands what is involved with getting baptized. Bring with you the form "My Personal Relationship with Jesus." Getting baptized is something to celebrate and something you want to always remember, invite friends and family to celebrate with you to help you remember the day you were baptized.