

Believer Baptism Worksheet For Children & Youth



A Guide for Parents: Children and Baptism

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What is baptism?

The Bible teaches about baptism.

Baptism was a part of the early church tradition. Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward change: no longer a slave to sin, but a proclamation of a dedicated life with God.

When John began baptizing, he declared the importance of turning from our sins. Jesus Himself was baptized by John to show that in His humanity, He identified with us. The Holy Spirit will teach us the truth about Jesus' death and resurrection, and that only through His work on the cross we are made acceptable to a Holy Father.

Can a child be baptized?

Baptism is for everyone who has trusted Jesus to save them.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus never stipulated an age, but the context indicates that the one being baptized had trusted Jesus' saving work on the cross.

In Acts 2, Peter preached the gospel to thousands of people to turn from trusting ourselves, or false gods, to trusting Jesus' work. In the early church days there are incidences of families being baptized. It is likely that children would have been a part of this as well.

How do I know if my child is ready to be baptized?

Does your child feel confident about his/her salvation?

Since baptism is for all believers, if your child is certain that he/she is saved, he/she should get baptized! If your child is uncertain, don't push baptism, but keep affirming the gospel in your child's life. Baptism does not make your child a Christian or "guarantee entrance into Heaven". We have to trust in Christ's saving work on the cross.

Does your child understand the significance of baptism?

Baptism is significant. It is a public confession of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and a public identification with Christ and Church. It is for the benefit of both the person being baptized and the congregation. The church serves as an extended spiritual family and commits to encouraging and admonishing your child in their faith journey. As part of our MB practice, we have tied baptism and membership in a local church together. The local church is the expression of Christ's body on earth.

How can I prepare my child for baptism?

Pray for your child

- Pray that God will give you and your child discernment about the right time to be baptized
- Pray that God will give your child understanding of the significance of baptism. Ask your child the “Big Questions”
- Ask about his/her salvation
- How does he/she know that he/she is saved? Who saves?
- Ask about his/her desire to follow Jesus

Talk with your child about the meaning of baptism

- Once your child expresses a strong desire to be baptized, your child is confident in his/her faith, and you feel your child understands the importance of baptism, then encourage your child
- Have a verse or two that speaks to you about your child. Be praying that he/she would be a champion in his/her faith, and that he/she would trust Jesus all the days of his/her life.

Feel absolutely free to speak with a Pastor or your Small Group leader about baptism and your child.

We’ve created this Baptism Worksheet to assist you as parents to help your child think through what it means to follow after Jesus and the step of Baptism. We encourage children to respond to the questions and print in the answers with their own words. This will aid in the discernment process for you as a parent and for the pastoral team on how best to respond to your child’s desire to be baptized. Either to encourage your child to proceed with filling in the Baptism Application at this time or to wait and work towards a clearer understanding of what it means to follow after Jesus.



Timeline

1. *Child indicates desire to be baptized*
2. Parents and Pastor discern together if the child has a clear understanding (using the *Baptism Worksheet* as a tool)
3. If it is discerned the child is “ready” for baptism, he/she fills out the *Online Baptism Application* form which is submitted to the church office.
4. The baptism candidates meet with a Pastor or Deacon to have a *Baptism Class*.
5. The baptism candidates meet with a Pastor or Deacon to have a *Membership Class*.
6. The baptism candidates *meet with the Deacons to present their testimony* (along with the other candidates.)

CHILD BAPTISM WORKSHEET

We are excited that you want to follow Jesus and be baptized. Please fill out this workbook so we can get to know more about you and your relationship with Jesus. It's okay to ask your parents to help, but make sure that you write down your own thoughts and words.

Remember, it's YOU getting baptized, not your mom or dad.

A few things you should know before you get baptized:

Being baptized does NOT mean that:

1. You become a Christian: Baptism does not make you a Christian. Your trust in Jesus Christ's salvation through the cross is what makes you a Christian. Baptism does not activate that faith in any way.
2. We will stop sinning or will become a good person: We all have a sin nature that we are continuously trying to crucify with Christ. In surrendering your life to Christ, you give the Holy Spirit permission to make you look more like Jesus.

This means that we do not have to wait to figure it all out or have our lives perfect. We will never have it altogether, nor will we always get it right.

Don't let excuses hold you back from taking this Biblical step.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Birthday: _____ Postal Code: _____

Names of Parents: _____

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for salvation?

YES _____ NO _____

If you answered YES, please tell us about that: when did you trust Jesus?

Why did you decide to do that?

2. What does it mean to be a Christian?

3. Can you tell us some ways that you see God changing you? (Examples: attitudes, actions, words, choices, etc.)

4. Have you ever done something you knew you shouldn't? Who will help you not to do the things you know are wrong? Look at Romans 7:14-25.

5. Now look at the promises in Romans 8:1-17. What promises are made about the Holy Spirit?

6. Jesus Himself was baptized! Read Matthew 3:17 and see what the Father God says about His Son Jesus. Fill in these blanks:

"This is _____ (2 words), whom I _____;
with Him I am _____ (2 words)

7. Are you committed to following Jesus and obeying Him with the help of the Holy Spirit and other Christians around you?

YES _____ NO _____

8. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" In this scripture, circle the two words that represent coming up out of the water.



7. Tell us the names of one or two people that have helped you to grow in your relationship with Jesus or who you look up to as being Godly role models.

8. What are some of the reasons you look up to these people?

9. Tell us why you want to be baptized.

NEXT STEPS

After you have answered the questions in the workbook and if you decide together with your parents and ministry leader that you want to apply to be baptized at our next Baptism Service, here are the next steps:

1. Contact the church office or check the Church Website to find out when the next baptisms are scheduled
2. Fill out the **online application form** which is submitted to the church office. (See the next page for “Some things to think about” before filling out your online form.
3. You will be contacted with the date and time of when you will meet with a Pastor or Deacon and other people getting baptized to have a **Baptism Class**.
4. You will be contacted with the date and time of when you will meet with a Pastor or Deacon and other people becoming members to have a **Membership Class**.
5. You will be contacted to arrange a time to **video you reading your testimony**. (Your testimony will be put together with the answers from the questions we ask you in the Baptism Application Form)
6. The people getting baptized and becoming members **meet with the Deacons to present their testimony**. This sounds a little scary but it is really a time to get to know others from our church and to have someone pray for you and encourage you.



Here are some things to *think about* in preparing to fill out the Baptism Application form (available online).

You don't need to write down your answers to these questions – because they will be a part of the application form you will fill out later. But take some time to read them out loud and think about how you will answer them.

BEFORE

Before you received Jesus, what were some attitudes or actions that were not very much like Jesus?

HOW

What made you want to accept Jesus as your Saviour?

Did anyone pray with you when you accepted Jesus? If so, who?

When/where did you accept Jesus?

What did you say when you prayed to receive Jesus?

AFTER

What is different in your life since accepting Jesus?

How are you learning more about Jesus? (Bible reading, prayer, Sunday School, etc.)

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

Tell us why you would like to be baptized

Tell us why South Abbotsford Church is important to you and why you want to join our church family.

Who would you like to have baptize you (Subject to availability and approval by Pastor and/or Deacons)

In which service would you like to be baptized?



Please tell us of a favorite Scripture verse and why it is important to you.

(Some helpful texts (you don't have to use one of these):

John 3:16

Romans 10:9-10

II Cor. 5:19-21

John 14:6

Mark 1:17

Acts 2:38

Romans 3:23

Mark 10:21

Acts 16:31

Romans 5:6

Mark 16:16

Eph. 2:1-10

Romans 5:8

Matthew 6:33

Ephesians 4:24

Romans 5:12

Matthew 10:32

Philippians 3:4-9

Romans 6:4

Matthew 10:38

Colossian 2:12

Romans 6:23

Matthew 28:18-20

Colossians 3:1-4

Romans 10:2-3

II Cor. 5:17

I John 1:8-2:2



ON YOUR BAPTISM DAY

This is a celebration! Invite all your friends and family (whether or not they are believers). Let them know that they are free to take pictures/video.

Arrive at least 30 minutes before the service is to start. You will need to check in with whoever is baptizing you to be directed to the place where you will change clothes.

Please wear dark-coloured clothing (e.g. females wear your bathing suit under a dark t-shirt and shorts; males wear a dark t-shirt and your bathing suit.) Bring a towel.

Go barefoot, wear sandals or river shoes.

Your testimony video will be shown before your baptism – while you are in the tank.

You will receive a baptismal certificate sometime after the service.

You will be asked to respond affirmatively (“yes”) to some questions about your faith and commitment to Jesus.

If you have any concerns about these questions, please speak to a ministry staff member or with your small group leader.

- Do you believe that Jesus was God in human flesh; that He died because of your sins and rose again cancelling your debt, making you alive together with Him?
- Is it your confession that Jesus alone is your Lord and your Saviour?
- Do you believe that Jesus is the head of the Church for which the Holy Spirit has gifted you for active ministry?

