

Discerning Together

Believer Baptism For Children & Youth

A Guide for Parents and Mentors



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Why is Baptism the Next Step in Following Jesus?

BELIEF

We believe that when people decide to follow Jesus, they receive God's gift of salvation and they are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of having been cleansed from sin. It is a covenant with the church to walk in the way of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

MEANING

Baptism by water is a public sign that a person has repented of sins, received forgiveness of sins, died with Christ to sin, been raised to newness of life, and received the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of the believer's *incorporation* into the body of Christ as expressed in the local church. Baptism is also a pledge to serve Christ according to the gifts given to each person.

CAN A CHILD BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is for those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and commit themselves to follow Christ in obedience as members of the local church. Baptism is for those who understand its meaning, are able to be accountable to Christ and the church, and voluntarily request it on the basis of their faith response to Jesus Christ.

Parent/Guardian/Mentor - please complete

Child's Name: _____ has completed this workbook.

We have discerned that our child has confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has demonstrated their commitment to follow Christ.

We have discerned that our child has a good basic understanding of the significance of baptism.

We have discerned that our child is prepared to proceed with the next steps towards baptism.

Parent or Mentor
Signature(s)

Parent or Mentor
Name(s)

Here are some things to *think about* in preparing to fill out the Baptism Application form (available online).
<http://southabbotsford.com/belong/baptism-membership/>

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?

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 basics of the Gospel? (See next page)

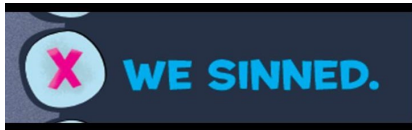
Does your child understand the significance of baptism?

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 counseling 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.



* The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. (Genesis 1:1, Revelation 4:11, Colossians 1:15-17)

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9)

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 2:8-9)



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus.

Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. (John 14:6, Romans 10:9-10, 13)

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|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 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 6:33 | Philippians 3:4-9 |
| Romans 6:4 | Matthew 10:32 | Colossian 2:12 |
| Romans 6:23 | Matthew 10:38 | Colossians 3:1-4 |
| Romans 10:2-3 | Matthew 28:18-20 | I John 1:8-2:2 |
| | II Cor. 5:17 | |

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

1. Attend a Baptism Class
2. Attend a Membership Class
3. Complete a Baptism Application (available in online format)
4. All baptism candidates meet with the Deacons to share their testimony. This sounds a bit scary but is really a time to get to know others from our church and to have someone pray for you and encourage you.
5. Look forward to the next scheduled baptism date.

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.

10. What are some of your favorite Bible verses and why? (See a list of suggestions on next page - you don't have to choose one of these)

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”

Talk with your child about the meaning of salvation.

- 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
- Ask how they see their faith lived out in daily life.

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.

Timeline

1. Child indicates a desire to be baptized
2. Parents/Pastor/Small Group Leader discern together if the child is mature enough and has a clear understanding of the Gospel and a basic understanding of Baptism using this tool (Discerning Together: Believers Baptism for Children and Youth)
3. Child attends a Baptism Class with a parent or mentor or ministry leader.
4. Child attends a Membership Class
5. Child completes a Baptism Application (available in online format)
6. All baptism candidates meet with the Deacons to share their testimony and for a time of discernment and encouragement. (This sounds a bit scary but is really a time to get to know others from our church and to have someone pray for you and encourage you.)
7. Candidates anticipate the next scheduled baptism date.

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.

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.

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.

**For Children & Youth:
Understanding the Gospel and
the Importance of Baptism**



For Children & Youth: Understanding the Gospel and the Importance of Baptism

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?

