

Child Baptism

THE GOSPEL TOOLKIT



Restore practices a “believer’s” or “confessor’s” baptism, which means we only baptize those who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We do not practice infant baptism.

Baptism is our way of showing others that we have been wiped clean of our sins because we believe in and love Jesus.

It is important to remember that it is okay if your child is not ready to be baptized just yet. It does not mean that they are not saved, nor does it mean that they will not be saved in God’s perfect time. It also does not mean that you are failing in the area of discipling your child! Trust in God as you actively obey his call to disciple them, and He will bring the fruit.

WHEN IS SOMEONE READY FOR BAPTISM?

- ▶ When they come to saving faith in Jesus, regardless of age
- ▶ When they understand and acknowledge their sin
- ▶ When they actively display spiritual fruit or “evidences of faith” in their life
 - ▶ Remember that sanctification is a life-long process. Budding fruit is still fruit!
 - ▶ We should not require mature fruit from a new believe, but some expect some fruit!

WHAT CAN EVIDENCE OF FAITH LOOK LIKE IN A KIDDO?

- ▶ Do they have affection for God?
- ▶ Do they show gratitude for salvation?
- ▶ Is there eagerness to learn about God?
- ▶ Is there desire to obey commands of God?
- ▶ Is there condition and confession of sins?
- ▶ Is there growth in the fruits of the spirit?
- ▶ Is there a growing love for others?
- ▶ Do they engage in prayer?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDDOS TO ANSWER

What does baptism mean? What is it for?

Why do people get baptized?

Why do you want to be baptized?

You can also have your kiddo draw a picture while you talk. Kiddos often learn and express through movement!



WHY IS BAPTISM CONFUSING FOR KIDS?

Kids are concrete thinkers and struggle with abstract ideas

1

Kids often hear “baptism” and “becoming a Christian” as interchangeable phrases, which can cause them to think baptism is what saves us

2

Just like they may think of communion as a snack at church, they may think of baptism as a swim or special bath (that concrete thinking!)

3

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THAT?

1

Emphasize that our heart changes first, then baptism follows. Share your own experience of salvation and baptism!

2

Teach kids the basics of baptism, but let them start the conversation about being baptized themselves

3

Try not to pressure them in front of a group or offer material rewards for decisions about baptism or salvation



SOME OF THE RIGHT REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

- ▶ I want to honor God by obeying Him
- ▶ I want to follow Jesus’ example
- ▶ I want to show others in the church that I am a follower of Christ

SOME OF THE WRONG REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED



- ▶ A fear of not going to Heaven if not baptized
- ▶ A fear that God will be angry if not baptized
- ▶ Mom and Dad want me to and I want to make them proud
- ▶ My friends and/or siblings are baptized and I want to be like them
- ▶ I want to feel important/be the center of attention
- ▶ I like water and think it would be fun
- ▶ I want to be able to brag about being baptized to my friends

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt 28:19)