

Talking to Kids about Baptism

It's exciting when kids start asking questions about baptism and who Jesus is. It's important to follow-up with your kid to determine if they're just curious about baptism or if they've made a conscious decision to follow Jesus. Our hope is that this guide will provide clear, kid-friendly language to aide in your discussion with your awesome kid. Be sure to grab your Bible, so you can show that what you're communicating is coming from God's Word!



Baptism is a BIG deal!

It's a one-time, grand announcement that you follow Jesus because you believe He rescued you. Instead of telling people one at a time, you get to show a whole bunch of them at once...by getting dunked in water. That might sound weird, but there's a really cool reason for the water and the dunking.

Any person who gets baptized should understand what they're showing others. Baptism is like announcing...

I need a rescuer. Everybody has done wrong things. We call this sin. Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God. It all started when God told Adam not to eat from one tree in the Garden of Eden. He even warned him, "If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." (Genesis 2:17). God's enemy, Satan, lied to Adam and Eve telling them that God didn't really love them. Sadly, they chose to believe Satan and disobey God (Genesis 3:1-6). That's when death and all the wrong things in the world began. Adam and Eve eventually died. And now everyone who disobeys God – which is ALL of us – deserves the punishment of death (Romans 3:23), which is to be separated from God forever.

God sent a rescuer. God created us to love Him and be close to Him, forever. And He loved us too much to let death stand in the way of that. So He sent His own, perfect Son, Jesus to rescue us. Jesus wasn't just a regular guy. Jesus was God the Son - able to live a perfect life and never sin. We can't do that, because we're not God. Because He never sinned, Jesus didn't deserve the punishment of death, but He came so He could take the punishment for *our* sins (John 3:16). Jesus took our punishment by dying, but death couldn't keep Him because He had never sinned. So, Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life! Because Jesus beat death, we don't have to be separated from God anymore (Romans 8:38-39).

Jesus is my rescuer. There's nothing any of us can do to make up for the wrong things we've done. Even if we do a million, billion good things, it will never be enough (Ephesians 2:8-9). Choosing to believe that Jesus is God and that He took the punishment for our sins is the only way to fix our sin problem. When we do, God sees us as his very own children (John 1:12). That means we are close to Him again.

I follow Jesus. Ephesians 5:1-2 says, "You are the children that God dearly loves. So be just like him. Lead a life of love, just as Jesus did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. He was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God." Leading a life of love in a world full of wrong things is not easy (Romans 8:17), and we'll definitely mess up sometimes. But, if we accept God's rescue plan and do our best to live like Jesus, then one day we'll live with God forever in a perfect, glorious world, where there's no sickness or sadness or death or anything bad. And that will be worth the wait! (Revelation 21:1-4)

If a person is ready to make that announcement, here's why they really should get baptized...

Most importantly, Jesus wants us to get baptized.

After all, He got baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), and following Jesus means doing what He did. Also, He told people to get baptized in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you." Once we decide to follow Jesus (which is what it means to be a disciple) we should obey Him by getting baptized.

Baptism is a picture of Jesus' rescue. When we go under the water, it reminds us of how Jesus died and was buried. And it represents how we are choosing to get rid of, or bury, our old life of disobeying God and not being close to Him. When we come up out of the water, it reminds us of how Jesus defeated death and came back to life – and now we can learn to live like Jesus did, and do what He wants us to do. (Romans 6:3-4)

Baptism is a picture of how we have been made clean by God.

When Jesus rescued us, it was like he wiped away all the wrong things we've done and will do, just like water washes away dirt (Romans 6:23). The water in baptism shows people that we've told God we're sorry for the wrong things we've thought, said and done. We've asked God to forgive us and make us clean from sin, through Jesus (Psalm 103:10-12).

See I told you there was a cool reason for the water and the dunking! Baptism is a big deal and a big decision. If you've decided to trust God's rescue plan and you're ready, then let's plan your baptism. If you have questions and need to think more about it, it's okay and we can wait until you're ready. Either way, let's pray about it!
