

Baptism

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

How do I know if my child is ready?

The decision to allow your child to be baptized should not be taken lightly. Many children are prematurely baptized, later confessing that they did not understand what they were doing. Since baptism is reserved for those who have placed their faith in Christ, the following questions can help you discern if your child is ready.

1. Does my child understand the gospel?

Does my child understand that he was made to worship a holy God? Does he understand that he has not done this, but has sinned and deserves eternal separation from God? Does he understand that Jesus died and rose again, taking the punishment he deserved for sin? Does my child understand that God offers salvation to those who turn from their sin and believe in Jesus? Does my child understand that salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned?

2. Does my child demonstrate a genuine walk with Christ?

Can you discern a changed heart in your child? Does your child demonstrate a desire to know and honor Christ? Is your child convicted by his sin? Does your child see his need for Jesus? Is there evidence that your child is growing in Christ? Is the Gospel mere facts or a life-changing message that has changed who your child is?

3. Does my child understand what baptism symbolizes?

Does your child understand that baptism does not save him? Does he understand that baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing his death to sin and new life in Christ? Does your child understand that baptism is a public statement that he will follow Jesus Christ and resolve to do so all the days of his life?

How can I prepare my child to one day be baptized?

As a parent, God has called you to be the primary disciple-maker in your child's life. You can help prepare your child for baptism by:

1. Discussing it.

Talk about baptism together. Use this guide as a resource. Share your testimony and explain how God has worked in your life.

2. Discerning your child's faith

Ask for help in examining where your child is spiritually. A Children's New Believers Class is offered quarterly for kids in grades 1-5. This 3 week class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child. For more information, or to register your child for the next class, contact kids@baysidebc.org. For students in grades 6-12, schedule a meeting with a pastor or the student director to discuss baptism. To schedule a meeting for your child, contact students@baysidebc.org.



*Following Jesus,
Becoming like Him together*