

CHILD BELIEVER BAPTISM BOOKLET



A Guide for Parents: Children and **Baptism**

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.

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 his/her 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.

CHILD BAPTISM WORKSHEET

Evangelical Free Church of Lethbridge

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Birthday: _____ Postal Code: _____

Names of Parents: _____

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/ 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, have our lives in order, or wait to "understand it more". 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.

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.

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

Let's begin!

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. 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).

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

YES _____

NO _____

6. 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. Tell us why you want to be baptized.

9. For how long have you been coming to E-Free? _____

Do you come to church regularly or once in a while? _____

Which Sunday service do you come to? If you normally go to KidsZone while your parents go to a service, check the service your parents normally attend.

- 9:15 AM (Worship Centre) _____
- 9:15 AM (Traditions – Gym) _____
- 11:00 AM (Worship Centre) _____
- 11:00 AM (The Crossing – Gym) _____
- 6:00 PM (Church @ 6 – Gym) _____

These are some questions that your Pastor will ask you when you meet.

1. Share a little bit about your family.
2. Do you like coming to church? Why or why not.
3. Briefly share how you became a Christian.
4. Why do you want to be baptized?
5. What areas in your life do you see God changing you?

Testimony Worksheet

This sheet will help you prepare a “testimony”. A testimony is telling about something that has happened. The church would love to hear how Jesus has changed and shaped your life. If you feel shy, don’t worry! Whoever is baptizing you can tell your story for you. So, we want you to tell us about how you became a Christian, what your life was like before and after you became a Christian, and a favourite verse you have and why it is important to you. This outline will help put it together.

My life before I received Jesus:

- Tell about any Christian influence in your home.
- Before you received Jesus, what were some attitudes or actions that were not very much like Jesus.

How I received Jesus:

- What made you want to accept Jesus as your Saviour?
- Did anyone pray with you when you accepted Jesus?
- When/where did you accept Jesus?
- What did you say when you prayed to receive Jesus?

My life after I received Jesus:

- 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?

Favourite Scripture verse and why it is important to you.

Preparing For Your **Baptism**

- 1.) **Complete this booklet** to the best of your ability
- 2.) Once you have finished, **contact the church office** to find out when the next baptisms are scheduled. A Pastor will set up a time with you to discuss your answers with you, answer any other questions you might have, and determine who will baptize you (e.g. a pastor, a small group leader, your parent, or another leader in the church).
- 3.) 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.
- 4.) 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.**
- 5.) Go barefoot, wear sandals or river shoes.
- 6.) Bring a piece of paper with **your testimony** written out that you can read. Put it in a sheet protector to prevent it from getting wet.
- 7.) In addition to sharing your testimony during your baptism, you will be asked to respond affirmatively (“yes”) to the following **questions:**
 - 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?
- *If you have **any concerns** about these questions, please speak to a ministry staff member or with your Small Group leader.*
- 8.) You will receive a baptismal **certificate** sometime after the service.

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.