



# BAPTISM BOOKLET

KIDS FOR THE ONE



# HELLO FAMILIES

This is a resource created to empower you, as the spiritual leader of the household, to have conversation with your child that is interested in going public in their faith through baptism. We encourage using a Bible to look up the verses listed throughout this resource.

Baptism is a BIG deal and heavily celebrated in our Kid's Ministry! In fact, we celebrate baptisms EVERY SINGLE SUNDAY! Going public in your faith through baptism is declaring that you follow Jesus because you believe He rescued you. This is meant to be celebrated with the Church body and your loved ones.

This resource will help you gain understanding of our vision at Church For The ONE, what baptism is, and why it is important to be baptized. Our goal is to assist and help prompt conversation with your child about baptism.

Please let our team know if you have any questions! We are honored to partner with you and your child on their faith journey.

After the review of this resource, you are welcome to register you and/or your child for baptism at [churchforthe.one/baptism](http://churchforthe.one/baptism) if you feel ready to go public with your faith! Let's do this!

-Kids For The ONE Team

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# OUR VISION

We seek to reshape the perception of the Church's relevance by becoming the first place people look to for identity, community, and help. We will be a church that is "obsessed with the one", focused on reaching those who are doubting, done with religion, and disengaged from faith; a church that feels such urgency to share the good news of Jesus and help others claim their divine purpose that our comfort no longer factors into the equation.

The life of our church is the activated faith of every individual. We will always call people to a step forward toward Jesus, believing that everyone has gifting and calling upon their life, regardless of their current starting point. We seek to connect people to the bigger thing that God is doing by leading them from serving while being discipled, to discipling while serving. We will build a foundation of faith through Scripture that people can always rely upon, a springboard for their future calling.

Our call is to transform our community, building the leaders and shaping the systems so that our community would look more like God's kingdom than it does today. Our commitment is to engage 1% of Lakeland in active ministry and to celebrate the baptism of 3,571 people before 2030. While we begin in our neighborhoods, we will not allow our current address to define our future footprint but will expand in our influence and ethnic diversity. We seek to continuously make a greater impact through helping other churches, deploying leaders, expanding online, and planting campuses.

This is Church: grace that is not devoid of truth. This is Church: an intergenerational community that swims against the current of prolonged adolescence. This is Church: a people humbled so that we will love as God loves. This is Church: so healthy that the gospel is irresistible. We are not a cruise ship, but a battleship. We are the Church.



## **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17) It involves applying water to the Christian which symbolizes their death to the old way of life (Romans 6:3-4), and then the breaking free from water which symbolizes the new life God provides them (Galatians 3:26-27). Baptism, a sacramental “means of grace,” seals one’s intention to follow God but it is not an act of salvation that takes away one’s sins (Acts 2:37-41, 8:35-39, 10:44-48).

## **HOW DOES BAPTISM WORK?**

The Bible never defines how much water was applied or how. Therefore, the Church of the Nazarene considers immersion, sprinkling, and pouring all to be acceptable methods of baptism. The HOW does not seem to be as important as the WHAT and the WHY according to scripture, the only thing that is absolutely clear is that it is a step that Jesus himself took and so should we!

## **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

The main purpose of baptism is to declare one’s faith in Christ and their commitment to follow him. It is also a way for you to seal what Christ has done in your heart by taking an action step that all will see (Colossians 2:12-14). Being baptized is meant to be a celebration of new life and a recognition of what Christ has done! Lastly, members of the early church all took this step, including Jesus, so it only seems appropriate that it would be a believer’s next step today (Acts 8:36).





## **IS MY CHILD READY?**

There is no “right” age or action to indicate your child is ready. It is hard to know exactly when anyone is ready, because baptism is an outward expression of an inward choice to follow Jesus. Allow your child to initiate the conversation on baptism. Don’t force baptism upon him or her or make your child think it is something that has to be done before they can be a Christian.

Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us there is nothing we can do to rescue ourselves from sin. Also, remind your child that baptism is not what saves them. Salvation only comes from trusting in Jesus Christ as the Savior of our sins and following him with our life. This is a great time to talk to your child about salvation and ensure that they have a basic understanding and have made a personal choice to give their life to Jesus. Baptism is the next steps after your child has said the prayer for Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Baptism further lets everyone know about this choice your child has made.

## **WHAT IF MY CHILD IS NOT READY?**

If you feel your child does not understand what it means to be baptized, it is entirely appropriate to wait. During this time, let your child observe baptism and continue the conversation by talking to them about what it means.



# WHAT IS SALVATION?

This is an exciting time in a kid's life. They're starting to ask questions about faith. They're wondering about God and His love for them. They may be asking a lot of questions about Jesus—ones that don't have a simple answer. But that's okay. This is a starting point for your kid to begin a lifelong conversation about faith. And if possible, make sure that parents and guardians around if and when a kid chooses to accept Christ. It's a life-changing decision, and they should be involved as well. If you're looking for a place to start, we suggest John 3:16. It lays the foundation for God's love for us that sent Jesus to be our savior.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**  
**John 3:16 NIV**

## SALVATION PRAYER

*\*If your child has never said this prayer, say it together!*

“Lord I believe. That Jesus Christ is the savior of the world.  
That he gave his life to forgive my sins and was raised from the  
grave so that I may have life. I receive your grace. By Faith.  
Come into my life. I will follow you.

Amen.



# WHAT TO SAY

## **GOD LOVED**

God loved you before you were even born. He created you in His Image. And He loves you right now. God has a plan for your life—like a story.

But there is something that separates us from Him, something that keeps us from being with Him forever. It's called sin. Sin is the stuff we do wrong. Sin keeps us from living out the story that God wants for us.

On our own, we can't do anything about this. We need God to step in and help. And because God loves us, He made a way for all of us to live with Him forever.

ASK: What is sin? Have you ever sinned? When? What is the problem with sin?

## **GOD GAVE**

God knew that our sin would keep us from living with Him forever. But because God loved us, He gave the most important, valuable, and perfect thing He had for you.

God gave His Son to fix that relationship. Jesus came to make a way for you to be with Him.

That's why Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay for our sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! His resurrection defeated death and makes a relationship with God possible again.

ASK: What did God give us? Why did God give this gift? What did Jesus do for us?



# WHAT TO SAY

## WHOEVER BELIEVES IN JESUS

When you receive a gift, what do you do? You open it. God said you could open His gift of salvation by believing Jesus died and rose again.

Believing simply means to trust. It's a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight in it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in or to trust in this gift.

To open the gift that God gave you, you trust Jesus with your whole life and rest in the fact that He died and rose again for you.

ASK: How can you take part in God's big story? What does it mean to trust in something? How do you know God loves you?

# WHAT NOT TO SAY

## 1. "Invite Jesus into your heart."

For kids, the phrase "inviting Jesus into my heart" can be confusing. They're such concrete thinkers that it can worry them to think that someone is living inside their actual heart.

## 2. "You have to pray like this . . ."

Kids are going to express their faith with how they understand it at their age. Don't get hung up on the "right words" but rather the heart with which they pray.

## 3. Any answers you make up

Don't make up answers to questions that you don't know yourself.

"I don't know" is a legitimate answer to questions that your kids have about faith. There's so much that we don't understand about how God works and how the Holy Spirit enters our life. And that's okay.



# BAPTISM DAY!

**What to Wear:** Your child can wear a pair of shorts and any t-shirt. Your child will receive a baptism t-shirt they can wear for the baptism and they get to keep the t-shirt to commemorate the experience.

**What to Bring:** Please bring a change of clothes and a towel for after baptism. There are restrooms where your children can change into dry clothes.

**Where Do I Go?** Head to our baptism wall to check in and get any important information concerning the baptism.

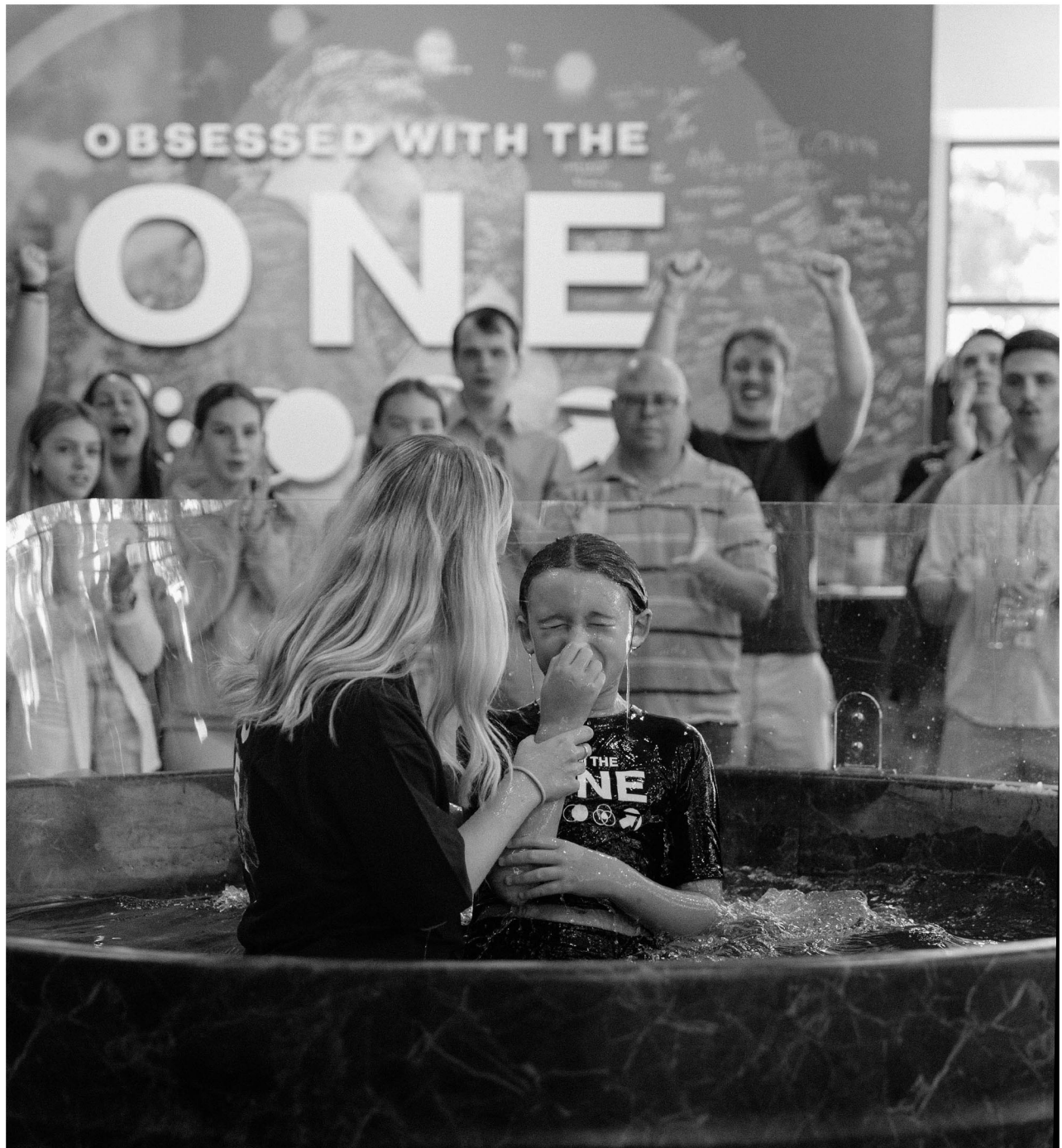
**When Do I Arrive?** Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled service of when your child is being baptized to check in at the baptism wall.

**What Happens?** Depending on the time given from the Check-in team, head out to the baptism wall to get in order and pray as a group. Once in the tank, the child will hold their nose with their right hand, and then grasp their right forearm with their left hand (this gives the baptizer a “handle” to hold), and then the adult will lower them into the water and bring them right back up.

The child will then exit the tank and be given a towel by the host. We do ask that at least one adult stays near the baptismal area with the child before they enter the tank to help them feel more comfortable. Parents and close family members will be invited after all the baptisms have been completed to pray over their child.



**SIGN-UP  
NOW**



**DON'T FORGET TO**

**SIGN THE WALL**

**AND TAKE A PIC TAG US @CHURCHFORTHE.ONE**