



Helping Your Child Understand Baptism



How do you know your child is ready for baptism? After accepting Christ as their personal Savior, how do you know if he/she is ready for this important milestone in a Christian's life?

Share a simple object lesson to help them understand baptism's meaning. Show your child a wedding ring and ask: ***What does it mean if someone wears a wedding ring?*** Answer: When people see the ring, they know that the person wearing it has a husband/wife.

Take the ring off and ask: ***Would a person still be married even though he/she is not wearing the ring?*** Answer: Yes, the ring is only a symbol that shows other people that he/she is married. A person is married when he/she makes a promise and says, "I do" or "I take you to be my husband/wife."

Baptism is a symbol that shows on the outside what has happened on the inside. Baptism does not save you, but it tells others that you are saying, "I do" to following Jesus. The inside change happened when you believed Jesus died for your sins, that He was buried, and that He came alive on the third day. He took away your sins and now lives inside you with His Holy Spirit. As you come up out of the water, you are showing that you have a new life with Jesus. Baptism is also a picture of the death, burial (going down into the water), and resurrection (coming up out of the water) of Jesus (Romans 6:1-5).

If you are sure your child has made a decision to follow Jesus and is ready to be baptized, make an appointment with your pastor/children's pastor and visit the church's baptistry.

- **What is this place called? What happens here?** – baptistry or baptismal font where people are baptized
- **Why do people get baptized?** – to follow Jesus' example, to show others that they are now followers of Jesus, to obey Jesus' command to be baptized.
- **When should a person get baptized?** – after he is a Christian, when he understands its meaning, when he is ready to publicly show that he is a Christ follower.

Ask your children if they have any questions they would like answered about baptism. They may have simple questions like: is the water cold, do I have to hold my nose?

Share your own story of the day you were baptized. Invite family and friends to celebrate this important milestone! Make it a very special day: take pictures, write down the date, give a gift, and celebrate with a party.

