

CHILDREN BAPTISM GUIDE



HILLSIDE KIDS



We are so excited that you are considering baptism for your child! Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and at Hillside Church we encourage our kids to make a decision to follow Him. Our children and teens are encouraged not just to learn about Jesus, but to learn from Him by walking with Him every day.

We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children (under the age of seven) can have a relationship with Jesus, they may not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older.

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized here are some questions to ask your child. The following answers show that your child understands.

When did you decide to follow Jesus and invite Him into your life?

Your child should have a specific memory of when she or he understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.

What does it mean to be water baptized?

It means I'm following Jesus. It means I'm a Christian and I want to show the world. It's a picture of what Jesus has done inside of me.

Why do you want to be water baptized?

Because Jesus told us to be baptized and because I am a friend of Jesus I want to follow Him. And because Jesus was baptized!

My Child Is Ready

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then we would love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with them.

My Child Is Not Ready

If you don't feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. We'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with your child spur them on their personal relationship with Jesus

Water Baptism Devotional

Obedying Jesus' Commands

Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world. [Matthew 28.19-20](#)

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The biggest reasons you should get baptized is because Jesus told us to and because He did it also.

When you become a friend of Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too. Take time right now and read about Jesus's baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

What are the best reasons to be baptized?

An Outward Picture

When you were baptized, you were buried as Christ was buried. When you were raised up in baptism, you were raised as Christ was raised. You were raised to a new life by putting your trust in God. It was God Who raised Jesus from the dead. [Colossians 2.12](#)

Water baptism is just an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to be in your heart there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means being brought back to life) that happened in your spirit.

That's why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus gave you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has happened in your heart.

What is water baptism a picture of?

A Decision Of Faith

We were buried in baptism as Christ was buried in death. As Christ was raised from the dead by the great power of God, so we will have new life also. [Romans 6.4](#)

Water baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after you have decided to follow Jesus and invited Jesus into your heart and your life. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus and your new born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord.

When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?

