

AM I READY TO BE BAPTIZED?

Section 1: God's Plan for Salvation

AN AWESOME BEGINNING

Would you like to have been around when the earth was created or at least seen a video on it? Can you imagine what it must have been like to see God create the earth and everything on it? It must have been awesome to see. Even though we don't have a video on it, God gives us the Bible that tells us how the world began and who was there to witness it.

GOD'S CREATION

Read the following passages and write down the three Persons who were present at the creation.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

1. _____

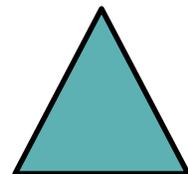
"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2)

2. _____

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-2 & 14)

3. _____

Think of a triangle. How many sides does a triangle have? It has three sides. It is not a triangle if a side is missing, yet with all sides, it is one triangle. God is like that. Three Persons yet only one God. This is one of God's mysteries.



So God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Spirit (Holy Spirit) were present at creation. If you want to read the rest of the exciting story of creation, read Genesis 1 and 2.

Now let's see how God felt about all the things He created. Read the following verse and write down how God felt about what He created.

“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31)

Look up Genesis 1:26. Who were people like when they were created? In what ways were they like God?

GOD’S PERFECT CREATION WAS RUINED

In Genesis 2, compare what God told Adam and Eve about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with what the serpent told them about the tree in the following verses.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:15-17)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5)

What God Said	What the Serpent Said

Now let’s see what Adam and Eve did.

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” (Genesis 3:6)

Did Adam and Eve obey or disobey God? _____

Sin is when we disobey God. When we sin, we are not listening to the One who created us and knows what's best for us.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, what two things entered the world? Read below.

"Therefore, just as **sin** entered the world through one man, and **death** through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)

What are the two things that entered the world? _____ & _____

Through Adam and Eve's sin, sin and death entered the world and it affects all of us. Romans 3:23 says, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

According to Romans 3:23, how many people have sinned? _____

WHAT IS SIN?

God told Adam and Eve if they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would die. And they chose to disobey. That choice resulted in a **LOSS OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD** for all mankind. Later, He gave a list of laws He wanted all people to obey. They are listed in Exodus 20:1-17. The 10 laws can be summed up like this.

1. Love God
2. Put God First
3. Speak Purely
4. Give God His Day
5. Honor Mom & Dad
6. Don't Murder
7. Be Faithful
8. Don't Steal
9. Be Truthful
10. Be Content

Looking at this list in what ways have you disobeyed God or sinned? Have you ever lied? Have you ever not obeyed your mom or dad? What are other things you have done that you know are wrong? List them.

James 2:10 says, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

If you have sinned, are you guilty for breaking all of it? _____

Here is the result of sin in our lives according to Romans 6:23. It says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

But God doesn’t want us to experience death for our sins, so He did something about it.

GOD’S SOLUTION

Even though we have all sinned and should be separated from God forever, God still loves us and has provided a way for us to be forgiven.

Acts 13:38 says, “Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know what through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.”

Through Whom do we have forgiveness? _____

When Jesus came to the earth, He showed us that He was God by His love, His actions, and His words. In John 14:6, Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” The reason He could say this is because of what He did. Read the following passage and write down what Jesus did for us.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

What did Jesus do for us? _____

Christ paid the penalty for our sins. He met God’s requirement in place of us. Read the following verses and tell what a person needs to do to receive the free gift of eternal life.

“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)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12)

To confess our sins means to agree with God that we have sinned. To repent means to turn away from continuing to sin and turn towards God.

What ways have you disobeyed God or sinned? Refer to your previous list.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died for your sins? _____

Would you like to have your sins forgiven and become part of God's family? _____

To become part of God's family, you have to receive his invitation and ask Him. Here are some words that you can pray to ask Him to forgive your sins and become part of His family.

"Dear God, thank you for loving me so much that you sent Jesus, Your Son, to die for me. I am sorry for all the times I have not obeyed you and sinned. Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and paying the price for my sins. Jesus forgive me. I want you to be my God. I want to be part of your family. Thank you for forgiving me and now I know I will live forever with you because of what Jesus has done. Amen."

If you prayed this, then you have become a child of God and you are now part of God's family forever. When we die, we will live with God in Heaven for eternity. God promises this. Jesus says, never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

How long will Jesus be your Savior and Friend? _____

Section 2: Baptism

THE FIRST STEP OF OBEDIENCE

After we become part of God's family by asking Jesus to forgive us of our sins, one of the first things He asks us to do as a child of God is to be baptized.

Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to be part of His family? Tell us about it.

One of Jesus' greatest commands to those who are part of His family is found in Matthew 28:19. Jesus said, "Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

What does Jesus command us to do? _____

Being baptized is our first step of obedience as a new member of God's family. The word "Baptism" is an interesting word. It is a word that means "to dip" or "to wash." The most important reason we are baptized is because Jesus asked us to and to follow His example. Read about Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:9-11.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

Maybe you've watched or played a baseball game or football game. How do you know who is on whose teams?

Yes, it's because each team has their own uniforms. When you get baptized, it's like you're letting everyone watching you know that you are on God's team. Even though you and God already know that you're a part of His family or on His team, baptism let's everyone else know about the decision you already made with God.

BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL

Baptism also has some other meanings. It is a symbol of three things.

1. Baptism is a symbol of how God made you clean on the inside from your sin. When you asked God to forgive you of your sins, He washed away your sin. When you are baptized, it is a symbol, or picture, of the washing that has already taken place inside of us when we asked Jesus into our lives to be our God and Savior.
2. Baptism is also a symbol and reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection. In Romans 6:3-5, it says, "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection."

From the verses, can you compare each of the following parts of baptism to the part of Christ's death and resurrection it symbolizes?

Baptism	Christ's Death and Resurrection
Going Under the Water	
Coming Out of the Water	

3. Baptism finally symbolizes that we are part of God's family. Read the following passages.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." (1 Corinthians 12:13)

"And He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church." (Colossians 1:18a)

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM

In Acts 8:12, we can see what happened to people before they were baptized.

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

What did the men and women do before they were baptized?

SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

Why should we be baptized? _____

Who should be baptized? _____

Respond to the following questions. (Yes or No):

Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? _____

Have you asked for forgiveness for your sins? _____

Have you decided you want to obey and follow Jesus? _____



Have you decided you want to be baptized? _____

BASIC INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Present Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ T-shirt size: _____ Gender: _____

Parents' Names _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. You can turn your packet in to a Lifeguard on Sunday mornings or email it to info@theepicchurch.com.
2. Once we receive this packet, the Tidepool or Riptide Lead will contact you to schedule a time for an interview to go over the answers with your child the Sunday prior to the Baptism Sunday.
3. Then you receive all the necessary details for the day of baptized. Be sure to invite your family, friends, and anyone who would celebrate this moment.
4. Get baptized! Baptisms take place after Sunday worship gatherings and are typically done at Flagler Beach in the ocean.
5. As part of the baptism, you will receive a Epic t-shirt to wear at the baptism as our gift to you.
6. Be prepared after you have been baptized to answer one question for our video highlight. The question is "How has Jesus changed your life?" Have a sentence or two ready to share. By filling out the form above, you are also giving us permission to use the video footage for the video highlight.