

## SO YOU WANT TO GET BAPTIZED

Congratulations! If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are ready to be baptized. Your baptism is a key opportunity to show others that you have already accepted Jesus Christ and have a relationship with Him.

There are two reasons you should be baptized:

1. **Obedience** - In Matthew 28:19, Jesus instructed us to be baptized as an act of obedience. Jesus Himself was baptized! We want to follow His example and honor His guidance. While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God.
2. **Identification** - Just as a name tag lets everyone know your name, baptism identifies you as a Christian. It's a public way to celebrate with others the inward decision of salvation that you already made between you and God.

This packet is designed to explain baptism and the necessary steps to be baptized at an upcoming baptism. Please fill out the following information so that your Student Director can know your desire to be baptized and celebrate with you.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT BAPTISM

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are ready to be baptized. Just like a bride and groom have a reception to celebrate with others the decision they just made in the preceding ceremony, your baptism celebrates and shows everyone the decision you already made to accept Jesus Christ. Baptism is a celebration and a public way to tell everyone of the inward decision you already made.

Salvation and baptism are two separate things. Salvation occurs when you decide to place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Look up Romans 10:9 and write down the verse here:

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Salvation is the only way for us to have a relationship with God and to spend eternity in heaven when we die. Baptism, on the other hand, is a one-time public act to show that you have already become a follower of Jesus Christ. Baptism should happen after salvation. Baptism is not a requirement of salvation.

While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it declares to everyone that you are serious about your relationship with God and wanting to follow God on a daily basis. Look up Romans 12:1-2 and write down the verse here:

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Each day we have to make a decision to follow God as a Christ Follower. This is our way to show God we love Him.

Besides being a public way to show people you are a Christ follower, baptism has some important symbolic meanings. When a person goes under the water and then comes back up, it symbolizes four things:

1. **Jesus' Death and Resurrection** (Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)  
Going under the water symbolizes Jesus' death. Coming out of the water symbolizes Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It reminds us what Jesus did for us in His death, burial, and resurrection so that we can have a relationship with God when we put our faith in Him.
2. **New Life in Christ** (Read Romans 6:3-11)  
Going under the water symbolizes that we are putting our old life to death. Coming up out of the water symbolizes that we have a brand new, abundant life in Christ! We are no longer dead in our sin; we are to live a new life in Christ!
3. **Washing from Sin** (Read Titus 3:5 and Psalm 51:2)  
Going under the water symbolizes the cleansing that took place when you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins in salvation. Coming up out of the water symbolizes the clean heart that Jesus gave you when you were saved.
4. **Becoming Part of the Body of Christ** (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)  
The body of Christ is the Church. The Church is made up of believers from all time, all over the world. When we go down into the water, it symbolizes entrance into God's family, the body of Christ. Coming up out of the water says to everyone who is watching, "I'm one of you! I'm in your spiritual family!" An important part of identifying yourself as a follower of Christ is that you enter into a circle of accountability, desiring to have others challenge you, encourage you and spur you on in your walk with Christ.

## BAPTISM QUESTIONS

### 1. Who should be baptized?

- Those who have already believed and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12)
- Those who desire to publicly declare they have put their faith in Christ. (Romans 6:12-13)  
"Baptism expresses that we are God's from head to toe." (John Piper)

**2. Why should a believer be baptized?**

- Jesus, Himself, was baptized as an example to us. (Matthew 3:13-17)
- Jesus commanded us to baptize believers. It is an act of obedience. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- New believers were commanded to be baptized. (Acts 2:38)

**3. Are you ready to be baptized?**

- Briefly describe when and how you became a Christ follower. \_\_\_\_\_

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- Explain your understanding of salvation. \_\_\_\_\_

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- How would you describe your current relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- After being baptized, what steps are you going to take to be committed to loving and obeying God, which will show others that you are a Christ follower? \_\_\_\_\_

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- Are you willing to be in relationships with other Christ followers who seek to encourage you, help you, and call you out when needed in your relationship with Jesus Christ?

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## BASIC INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Are you parents aware you are wanting to be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Are your parents in agreement with your decision to be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

What Student Ministry are you a part of? (Circle One)

- Pipeline 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Surge 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

## WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Once we receive this packet the Student Director will contact you just prior to the baptism to follow-up with you and go over your answers from this packet.
2. Then you receive all the necessary details for the day you are being baptized. Be sure to invite your family, friends, and anyone who would celebrate this moment with you.
3. Get baptized! Baptisms take place after Sunday worship gatherings and are typically done at Flagler Beach in the ocean.
4. As part of the baptism, you will receive a Pipeline or Surge t-shirt to wear at the baptism as our gift to you.
5. 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.