

BAPTISM

Guide

FOR ADULTS



Congratulations! Baptism is an exciting step in your relationship with Jesus and a significant moment for many Christians. As you consider baptism as your next step of faith, we want to help you feel informed, prepared, and excited about your decision!

This booklet explains The Chapel's beliefs about baptism, how to decide if you are ready, what the baptism service will be like, and how to best prepare.

If you have questions please reach out to your campus pastor.



THE CHAPEL

What is baptism?

Baptism is an outward expression of your decision to follow Jesus and something you do after you have made Jesus the Lord and leader of your life.

What does it mean to make Jesus the Lord and leader of your life?

To make Jesus the Lord and leader of your life is to enter into a relationship with him. Many people call this step of faith salvation. With Jesus as the Lord and leader of your life, you acknowledge that he gave his life for the forgiveness of your sins and also that he wants to be in communication with you daily, participating in your life and helping you experience the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

Is baptism the same as salvation?

Baptism is not the same as salvation, and it is important to have already entered into a relationship with Jesus before getting baptized.

READ THESE VERSES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SALVATION

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

God saved you by his grace when you believed.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

Why is baptism important?

As followers of Jesus, we want to model the life he lived to become more like him along the way — and Jesus was baptized! Although we do not believe that you have to be baptized to have a relationship with Jesus, it is an important step in publicly proclaiming your faith. Baptism in the church also invites a community of other followers of Jesus to come alongside you to support and encourage you in your faith.

READ THESE VERSES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BAPTISM

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment, heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him, I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)

"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

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.

Romans 6:4

What is the baptism service like?

Baptism typically occurs on a weekend during one of The Chapel's regularly scheduled gatherings. There might be times, however, when a campus or ministry (like Chapel Students) decides to hold a special baptism service. The baptism service you participate in is an opportunity to celebrate your public declaration of faith with family, friends, and the church.

Why water baptism?

Jesus was baptized by water, and so are we! When you are baptized at The Chapel, you will be submerged under the water by a pastor, parent, or mentor and emerge from the water symbolizing the new life we have in Jesus. Here are some things you should know about water baptism:

- Baptism is available to everyone who is a follower of Jesus
- Baptism is an act of obedience to God
- Water baptism is being briefly dunked under the water and then lifted out as a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
- Baptism tells others you belong to God

How do I know I'm ready to be baptized?

Once you understand what baptism is, it is time to decide if it is your next best step as a follower of Jesus! As you make this decision, you are encouraged to invite people into the conversation who will pray with you and for you, answer questions or help you find answers to questions, and who will join you in listening for God's voice. Some people you can invite into the conversation are parents, group leaders, mentors, and friends who are mature in their faith.

Read through the following statements and consider if they are true in your life as you decide if baptism is your next best step:

- I have made a decision to follow Jesus
- I consider myself to have a life-giving personal relationship with Jesus
- I desire God to lead me in becoming more like Jesus each day
- I am excited for my friends, family, church, and the world to know that I am a follower of Jesus

How do I prepare for my baptism?

If you've made the decision that you are ready for baptism, congratulations! We are so excited to come alongside you in this exciting moment of life!

Follow these next few steps to best prepare for your baptism day:

- Sign up for baptism at chapel.org/baptism. Once you do this, a pastor from The Chapel's staff will connect with you if they have not already.
- Complete the Baptism Q&A.
- Write your testimony using the testimony section of this pamphlet.
- Decide who will baptize you. It could be a parent, mentor, friend or anyone who has said "yes" to Jesus as their Lord & leader and has been baptized as well.
- Invite your friends and family to your baptism service. This is an important event and worth celebrating!

Do I need to bring anything?

On the day of your baptism, there are a few things you should bring with you. These include:

- A towel
- Prewashed dark clothing (you will also receive a baptism t-shirt at the church)
- Dry clothes to change into after your baptism
- Any personal tools or toiletries you need to clean up after your baptism

**Please plan to leave your valuables (cell phone, purse, etc.) with a friend or loved one during your baptism*

On the day of your baptism, these items will be available at the church:

- Plastic bags for wet clothing
- Dressing areas

*It is possible that there will be a staff/volunteer videographer/photographer at your baptism; however, it is not guaranteed. Please plan accordingly if you would like photographs of your baptism.

Baptism Q&A

Respond to the questions as you reflect on your decision to be baptized. It is helpful to process each response with a parent/guardian or mentor.

How would you describe your current relationship with Jesus?

Why are you excited about making a public declaration of faith through baptism?

Why do you believe baptism is the next best step for you as a follower of Jesus?

What is one question you still have about baptism?

Share your testimony

When we share our testimony, others have the opportunity to encounter God through the ways he has worked in our lives. We would love to hear your testimony! The following prompts can be used to help you write.

- When did you invite Jesus into your life?
- Why did you decide to invite Jesus into your life?
- Who was influential in your decision to follow Jesus?
- Why do you want to be baptized?