BAPTISM

YOUR DECLARATION THAT JESUS IS KING



Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

ROMANS 6:3–5 NLT

THIS IS *Exciting!*

Baptism is a powerful step in following Jesus. It is a public declaration that he is your King and that you are embracing new life with him.

Whether you're ready to be baptized or still exploring, this guide will help you understand what baptism means, why it matters, and what to expect at The Chapel.

LET'S GET STARTED

What is baptism? **03**

Is baptism in the Bible? **04**

Why water? **05**

Who can be baptized? **06**

Should I be baptized? **06**

How old do I have to be to be baptized? **07**

What is the baptism process at The Chapel? **08**

Who can baptize me? **09**

Who should I invite to my baptism? **09**

What happens after I am baptized? **10**

How do I get started? **11**

How do I prepare for my baptism? **12**

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a celebration and one of the most powerful decisions a person can make in their relationship with Jesus!

The decision to be baptized resets the trajectory of our lives, defining and declaring how we want to move forward with God. It's a profound personal declaration to the world that Jesus is both King over all creation and our individual lives. It's also the doorway into joining the Church: a lifelong community of faith where you can learn to follow God and bring his kingdom into the world alongside others doing the same.

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

COLOSSIANS 1:13–14 NLT



02 / SCRIPTURE

IS BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE?

Yes! When we read the Bible, we see that Jesus was baptized; he told His followers to baptize others, and people who came alive to God responded by getting baptized.

Jesus was baptized

Before Jesus began his public ministry, he went to John the Baptist and was baptized in the Jordan River. Jesus didn't need to be forgiven or made new, but he chose to be baptized to be publicly sent on mission by his Father in heaven. When we choose to be baptized, we are following the example Jesus gave us. (See Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus told his disciples to baptize others

After His death and resurrection, one of Jesus' final commands to his followers was to go and make disciples. Baptism was part of that invitation.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

MATTHEW 28:19 NLT

Everyone who decided to follow Jesus was baptized

From the beginning, baptism has been part of what it means to respond to Jesus and follow him. As Jesus' followers began sharing the good news, we see a simple pattern throughout the book of Acts: people heard about Jesus, believed in him, and were baptized. They didn't wait until they knew everything or had their lives figured out. Baptism was one of their first responses to their new life with Jesus.

On the day of Pentecost, about 3,000 people believed and were baptized (Acts 2:37-41). When Philip shared the good news with an Ethiopian man, he believed and asked to be baptized as soon as they came to water (Acts 8:26-39). We see the same response with Paul (Acts 9:18), Lydia (Acts 16:14-15), and the Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16:30-33).

When we are baptized today, we are following the example of Jesus, obeying his invitation, and joining generations of people who have responded to new life in him by publicly saying, *"I have decided to follow Jesus."*

03 / SCRIPTURE

WHY WATER?

The word baptism itself is derived from an ancient Greek word that simply means 'to dip, to immerse, or to plunge under. When we are baptized, we are briefly dipped and immersed under water, and then quickly raised back up out of it as a way of symbolically identifying ourselves with Jesus and his own death and resurrection.

Throughout the biblical story, water marks moments of rescue, deliverance, and new beginnings with God. The New Testament writers look back at these stories and help us see how they point toward the meaning of baptism.

... God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 3:20–21 NLT

Noah and the Flood

The Apostle Peter connects baptism to the story of Noah. Noah and his family passed through the waters and emerged into a new beginning with God. Peter gives us a picture of baptism as a response to God made possible through the resurrection of Jesus.

Israel and the Red Sea

The Apostle Paul makes a similar connection: Israel was rescued from slavery in Egypt, passed through the Red Sea, and then began a new life as God's covenant people. Paul describes their journey as a kind of baptism. In our baptism, we see a similar picture of leaving an old life of bondage behind and stepping into a new life with God.

In both stories, water becomes a dividing line between the old and the new; between what was and the new life God is bringing His people into. Baptism carries this imagery forward as we identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus and publicly declare that our old life is behind us and our new life is found in him.

I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1–2 NLT

04 / RESPOND

WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

If you have decided to follow Jesus and have not been baptized as his follower, baptism is your next step. Jesus calls his followers to be baptized, and you do not need to wait until you feel spiritually mature. Baptism publicly declares your trust in him as you begin a lifelong journey of following him.

A person is reconciled to God when they recognize their own sinfulness (that is, acknowledging how they have failed to live as God wants them to), repent of those sins (turning from those things and pledging to live the way God wants them to), trust Jesus to forgive their sins, and allow him to lead them in every area of their lives. Jesus is already the King over all Creation - but when we allow him to reign over our individual lives, we enter into a right relationship with him.

If you've never expressed your desire to be in a relationship with God, you can do that right now through an honest, heartfelt prayer (prayer is simply talking to God). Share these words (or something similar - there's no magic formula) with God, and God will take care of the rest:

"Jesus, I want to be in a relationship with you. I understand that I have done things that you do not want me to do, and I am genuinely sorry. I want to be the person you want me to be, and I give you the right to lead me in every area of my life. I trust you to forgive all my sins and to lead me forward. Thank you for the new life that I can have with you. I'm excited to follow you!"

Should I be baptized?

If you have decided to become a follower of Jesus, the answer is

When a person stands before others, especially many people they know and love, and declares their allegiance to Jesus, they are marking a moment in their own personal history, one that separates their old life from their new one, breaking with their past and establishing a new trajectory moving forward.



05 / FAMILIES

How old do I have to be to be baptized?

Great question! There is no strict age cutoff because the real qualification isn't age — it's the ability to understand the good news of Jesus and respond with genuine repentance and faith. Some children grasp this clearly at a young age; others need more time to move from simply repeating what they've heard to actually owning it themselves.

Parents know their children best and play the primary role in leading their kids through this process and discerning when they are ready for this step. Together with a pastor, they can collectively decide if a child is ready for baptism. There is no rush; in our experience, a later baptism rooted in a real, personally owned faith is far better than an early one driven by social pressure or a desire to please parents.



Can my baby be baptized?

Many parents have a desire to offer their children to the Lord soon after the child's birth, before the child is ready for baptism — and we affirm that as an awesome thing to do! For parents of infants and small children, we offer a child dedication ceremony. You can find out more on our website!

https://chapel.org/ministry/child-dedications/

06 / YOUR BAPTISM

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM PROCESS AT THE CHAPEL?

When you decide you are ready for baptism, one of our pastors will shepherd you through the process!

Before Your Baptism

Through conversation and dialogue, they will affirm the individual's decision to follow Jesus and then help them prepare a brief testimony.

A person's testimony is their story of how they came to faith in Jesus and made the decision to be baptized. Testimonies are part of the baptism celebration and a great way to encourage and inspire others on their own faith journey!

On the Day of Your Baptism

On the day of your baptism, after climbing into the water, your testimony will be shared with all those in attendance. Afterward, the person baptizing you will ask you one question:

"Have you decided to trust Jesus as the forgiver of your sins and leader of your life?"

After you respond, *"Yes, I have,"* the person baptizing you will declare:

"Then, based on your testimony and your proclamation of faith in Jesus, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

They will gently help you go back under the water and then quickly back up again. You should expect to hear enthusiastic cheering and applause when you come back up. People are excited for the decision you've made to follow God!



07 / KEEP FOLLOWING JESUS

After Your Baptism

Baptism is a starting line, not the finish. It celebrates your entrance into the community of God's kingdom on earth. Those 3,000 new believers in the Book of Acts immediately became part of the ongoing life of the Church.

You're invited to be part of the Church!

Find community

You'll want to find friends who have decided to follow God just as you have, so you can encourage one another in your faith. We have all kinds of groups and classes where you can meet people looking to grow closer to God.

Join the mission

You'll want to join the church's mission — which is to help other people come alive to God in the same way you have. Your story can have a tremendous impact on the lives of others. You can participate in our mission by inviting your friends to church, reaching out to those in need in your community, serving in our church to make it healthy and strong, and countless other ways.

Grow closer to God

The most important part of that is developing a devotional life — that is, a time when you can be alone with God every single day and come to know him in greater and deeper ways. We have many resources to help you as you get started. Talk with a pastor to find the ones that are best for you.

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer."

ACTS 2.42 NLT

Who can baptize me?

You can ask anyone who has already been baptized as a follower of Jesus! We think it's best when you ask someone you are close to, someone who has been influential in your own faith journey, and someone who will likely play a significant role in helping you move forward with God after your baptism. Ideally, they will be someone who helps carry the importance and specialness of this day for you.

Who should I invite to my baptism?

You should invite as many people as you possibly can! Those who have already decided to follow Jesus will be thrilled to celebrate this special moment with you. And those who have not will likely be super curious to hear your story and want to understand how you've experienced God at work in your life. Either way, this is an extraordinary moment for anyone to encounter the reality of God through what he's done in you.



09 / TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

I AM READY TO BE BAPTIZED

What now?

If you're ready to take this step, let us know by filling out the baptism form on our website.

On the form, there are a few questions for you to answer and a place to share your testimony. Once you do that, one of our staff pastors will reach out to you directly.

If you're not quite sure yet, that's alright too — we'd still love to talk. Personal conversations with a pastor at The Chapel are a very low-pressure way to work through any other questions you may have.

Either way, we're thrilled with how seriously you're considering not only baptism but also your decision to embrace Jesus as King, and would love to come alongside you in your journey of following him.

SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM TODAY

Scan the code to complete the form.

chapel.org/ministry/baptism/

BAPTISM DAY CHECKLIST

If you've decided you are ready for baptism, congratulations! We are so excited to come alongside you in this exciting moment in your life! After you have filled out the baptism form, follow these steps to best prepare for your baptism day:

- ☐ Decide who will baptize you. It could be a parent, mentor, friend, or anyone who has said "yes" to Jesus as the Lord and leader of their life and has been baptized as well.
- ☐ Invite your friends and family to your baptism service! This is an important event and worth celebrating!

What to bring with you

- ☐ A towel.
- ☐ Dark clothing that can get wet. You will receive a baptism t-shirt when you arrive.
- ☐ Dry clothes to change into after your baptism.

Before you enter the water

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

Capturing the moment

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

