

IS MY CHILD READY TO BE BAPTIZED?

As kids grow in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, they might be interested in baptism. At Salem Alliance, we provide the opportunity for children to be baptized if they can articulate their faith in Jesus clearly and show a desire to follow Him forever. We can nurture their curiosity by offering a supportive environment for them to reflect on their thoughts and experiences.

However, we also acknowledge the impact of waiting until they are older. With maturity comes a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, making their decision to be baptized more significant and personal.

Regardless of age, we rely on parents or other significant adults in a child's life to witness and confirm the child's readiness for this significant milestone. It is also important to consider our own motives, noticing where we harbor comparison to others or the desire to portray a specific image.

Here are a couple of questions that can help you process if your child is ready:

- **From your perspective, what has your child's relationship with Jesus been like?**
- **How has that impacted their decision to be baptized?**
- **What has transpired in their spiritual life that has led them to this moment of baptism?**

If you are wondering about how to have a conversation with your child about salvation, the conversation guide on the following pages might be helpful.

You are also welcome to connect with any of our Grade School, Middle School, or High School pastors:

- Kahri Mlinarcik, Grades K–2 kmlinarcik@salemalliance.org.
- Angy Thomas, Grades 3–5 athomas@salemalliance.org.
- Tanya Xiong, Middle School Pastor txiong@salemalliance.org.
- Brandon Miller, High School Pastor bmiller@salemalliance.org.

Having processed the information above, if you feel that your child is ready to be baptized, register them for class online or reach out to Cary Wood, Next Steps Coordinator.

Cary Wood
nextsteps@salemalliance.org
503.683.7406

SALVATION CONVERSATION GUIDE

Asking Jesus to be your Savior is a life-changing decision. Do you think your child is ready to make that decision? Are they asking questions about what it means to follow Jesus?

As you anticipate talking with your child about what it means to start a relationship with Jesus, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your words. You could have one conversation or you might have a series of conversations on this topic.

Here are a few questions you can use to guide the conversations:

Why do you want to ask Jesus to be your Savior?

What is sin? Can you give me an example of sin? Who sins? Did Jesus sin?

Sin is the angry, unkind, selfish, or wrong things we do that keep us from having a relationship with God. Examples include: telling a lie, hitting a sibling, disobeying your parents, etc. Everyone has sinned. Jesus is the only one who never sinned.

Who is Jesus? What did Jesus do for you? Why did He do it?

Jesus is God's Son. He lived a perfect life and then died on a cross to pay for our sins. God showed that death was defeated by raising Jesus from the dead three days later. Jesus died so we could have a relationship with God. He died because He loves us.

What does God say you need to do if you want to follow Him?

If you believe Jesus paid the price for your sins on the cross, all you have to do is ask His forgiveness for your sins and He will forgive you!

What changes when you ask forgiveness for your sin and follow God?

When Jesus saves you, you get a new life in heaven and a new life on earth. That means you get to follow God on earth, and someday you will see Him in heaven, where you will live forever.

What does it mean to follow God? What are some ways you can follow God?

Following God means loving and obeying Him. You won't always do it right, but that's okay. You can follow God by praying to Him, reading your Bible, being kind to others, and going to church.

ABC'S OF SALVATION

If your child is ready to ask Jesus to be their Savior, they are ready to...

Admit they are a sinner and ask forgiveness for their sins.

Believe that Jesus is God's son and that His death and resurrection paid for their sins.

Choose to live their life for God.

Use the prayer below or your own words to pray with your child to receive Jesus.

Dear God, I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of all my sins. I admit I am a sinner and do wrong things. Today, I have decided to change and live my life for You. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

CELEBRATE



The day someone believes in Jesus is a BIG deal! If your child makes this decision, please let Angy or Kahri know! They want to celebrate with you and also have a gift & note to mail to your child.



Here is another ideas for how you can make this a memorable experience for your family: throw a spiritual birthday party for your child. Have cupcakes, candles, and ice cream. You could even hold a spiritual birthday celebration for your child each year on this date.