

GRADE SCHOOL

BAPTISM PACKET

SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH





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We're excited that you are considering being baptized at Salem Alliance Church. Baptism is a public declaration identifying you as a follower of Jesus Christ and an important step in your faith journey.

In biblical times, baptisms were held in public places where family and friends gathered to witness the event. Today, baptism services at Salem Alliance continue in that tradition so Christ-followers have an opportunity to openly express their commitment and allegiance to Jesus. Baptism symbolizes the end of your old way of life without Jesus Christ. Coming up out of the water is a picture of our spiritual rebirth in Christ and our victory over sin and death. The Apostle Paul compares this life change to putting on a new set of clothes in Galatians 3:27: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

It is important that you take time to read through the material in this packet. There are instructions on the next page outlining the steps to be baptized at Salem Alliance Church. Please complete the necessary pages and **bring them with you** to the Baptism Class in order to participate in one of our baptism services.

We are truly excited for all who are ready to make their relationship with Jesus known to others through baptism. This act of commitment and dedication honors God and fulfills the commandment of Scripture given by the Lord Jesus Himself: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

May God bless you as you prepare!

Cary Wood
Next Steps Coordinator
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To your Grown-Up:

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.

Please take the time to complete this packet together with your child. Review the information and fill out the faith story section before the class on Sunday afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact Kahri Mlinarcik, Angy Thomas, or Cary Wood.

Steps for being baptized at Salem Alliance Church

- Register for Baptism Class and Baptism online.
- Completely fill out this packet and bring it to class.
- Attend Baptism class with your grown-up.

Baptism Packet Instructions

Please Complete this entire packet and bring it to class with you.

At the Baptism Class, come prepared to:

- Talk about what you've learned about baptism.
- Talk with a Grade School Pastor who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized.
- Confirm which service you would prefer your baptism to occur.
- Share your faith story.
- Please note, generous snacks will be provided.

Again, we are excited that you are exploring this next step in your walk with Christ.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

- Kahri Mlinarcik - kmlinarcik@salemalliance.org
- Angy Thomas - athomas@salemalliance.org
- Cary Wood, Next Steps Coordinator - cwood@salemalliance.org or 503.683.7406

BAPTISM: What, Why, Who, & When

What?

What does Baptism mean?

Look at a picture of yourself. It is not physically you, but it is a 'reminder' of what you look like. God chose baptism to give people a picture, or reminder, of our new life in Jesus Christ.

Here's what the picture of baptism is...

Going Down



GOING DOWN into the water reminds us that Jesus died as the punishment for our sins. We are saying that our old sinful self died and was buried with Him.

Coming Up



COMING UP out of the water reminds us that Jesus was raised to new life. As we come out we are saying to our friends and family who watch that we have a new and eternal life because of Jesus.

Baptism is your way to tell those who are watching that you believe Jesus died in your place for your sins, and you want to live the rest of your life with Him.

Why?

Why should we be baptized?

When Jesus was on earth people often came to Him and asked to be forgiven of their sins. Jesus would then have His disciples baptize them. They would go to a river or a pool and gently be put under the water and then be brought back up again. Doing this showed all the people who were looking on, that the person's sin had been washed away and he had started a new life with Jesus.

We do this today still because Jesus told us to baptize each believer as a sign of their new life in Christ.

- **Matthew 28:18-20** "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Who?

Who should be baptized?

Anyone who believes Jesus Christ died for their sins and wants to spend the rest of their life with Him.

These are the steps to that decision:

- A — Admit you are a sinner and ask forgiveness for your sins
- B — Believe that Jesus is God's Son and understand that His death and resurrection has paid for your sins.
- C — Choose to live your life for God.

If you are wondering more about this decision, there is a Salvation Conversation Guide that is available to you. Please scan the QR code below to access it.



When?

Are you ready to be baptized?

Baptism is a way of showing others that you believe Jesus died for your sins, and you want to live the rest of your life with Him. It is a one-time, life-changing event. It is okay to make the decision to be baptized when you are young, or to wait until you are a little older. Talk with your grown-ups about the right time for you to be baptized.

Please answer the questions on the following page.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

(answers on next page)

1. Will reading your Bible, going to church, doing lots of kind things, or having a Christian family take away your sins? Yes or No
2. Will being baptized take away your sin? Yes or No
3. In order to go to Heaven, you have to be baptized. True or False
4. People can only get baptized if they are 12 years old. True or False
5. Lots of people were baptized in the Bible. True or False
6. Getting baptized makes your heart clean and free from sin. True or False
7. Jesus got baptized. True or False
8. Jesus invites us to get baptized after we put our faith in Him. True or False
9. We call people who follow Jesus “Christians”. How can a person become a Christian?
10. Why should you be baptized?

BONUS

- Ask two people to tell you about when they received Jesus as their Savior. Where were they? How did it happen?
- Ask two people to tell you the story about when they were baptized.

ANSWERS

1. Will reading your Bible, going to church, doing lots of kind things, or having a Christian family take away your sins? Yes or No
 - No, only Jesus and His death and resurrection will take away your sin.
2. Will being baptized take away your sin? Yes or No
 - No, only Jesus and His death and resurrection will take away your sins. Baptism is just a picture of that truth.
3. In order to go to Heaven, you have to be baptized. True or False
 - False, baptism is just a picture, statement, and declaration of your salvation, not a requirement.
4. People can only get baptized if they are 12 years old. True or False
 - False, anyone who believes in Jesus and has made Him their Savior can be baptized, there is no age requirement.
5. Lots of people were baptized in the Bible. True or False
 - True, Acts 2:41, 8:12, & 8:36-38 are just a couple of examples
6. Getting baptized makes your heart clean and free from sin. True or False
 - False, only Jesus and His death and resurrection will take away your sin.
7. Jesus got baptized. True or False
 - True, see Matthew 3:13-17
8. Jesus invites us to get baptized after we put our faith in Him. True or False
 - True, see Romans 10:9 and Matthew 28:18-20
9. We call people who follow Jesus “Christians”. How can a person become a Christian? OR What do you need to do in order to have your sins forgiven and taken away?
 - See the ABC’s of Salvation on page 4.
10. Why then should you be baptized?
 - Jesus asks us to be baptized as a picture of our new life in Him and a declaration to others that we are following Him forever.

My Faith Story

This page must be completed and brought to Baptism Class.

Name: _____

Complete this page with your grown-up. Using this sheet, take some time to reflect on how you became a follower of Christ. In preparation to be baptized, it is important for you to articulate your story and faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your willingness to share and allow us to celebrate what Jesus has done in your life.

1. Who is God? What do you know about Him?

2. Why do you want to be baptized?

3. What is something Jesus is teaching you now that you are _____ years old?

4. If you could see Jesus right now, what might you say or do?

5. How did you meet Jesus? What does your friendship with Him look like?

6. How is God on the move in your life or in your heart right now? What have you been noticing about Him?

Grown Up Questions:

This page must be completed and brought to Baptism Class.

1. From your perspective, what has your child's relationship with Jesus been like?

2. How has that impacted their decision to be baptized?

3. What has transpired in their spiritual life that has led them to this moment of baptism?

Adult Signature: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

