

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
BAPTISM
PACKET
SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH





SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH

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!

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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.
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Please complete this entire packet before the Baptism Class and bring it with you to class.

What to Expect at Baptism Class

- A short teaching on baptism
 - Speaking with a Salem Alliance Pastor or Elder who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized
 - Finalizing details of your baptism, including date/day/time/baptizer
 - Touring the locations and see the process of baptism as it occurs during weekend services
 - An opportunity to ask any questions you may have about baptism
 - Please note, generous snacks will be provided.
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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:

- Tanya Xiong, Middle School Pastor - txiong@salemalliance.org
- Brandon Miller, High School Pastor - bmiller@salemalliance.org
- Cary Wood, Next Steps Coordinator - cwood@salemalliance.org or 503.683.7406

What?

What is Baptism?

The word “baptize” is borrowed from the Greek language. It was a word used by people who dipped cloth completely under water to change its color.

God chose to use baptism as a picture, or reminder, of what happened when we received Christ as our Savior.

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...

1. Christ died for our sins
2. He was buried
3. He was raised on the third day

Going Down



GOING DOWN into the water reminds us 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.

- **Romans 6:3-6** “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. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.”

Baptism is your way of telling and showing people who watch that you believe Jesus died in your place for your sins, and you want to live the rest of your life for Him.

Why?

Why should we be baptized?

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

Does this mean anyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior should be baptized? Yes!! But what does that mean – "believe in Jesus as our Savior"??

Here are the steps to that decision:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Admit | You ADMIT you have sinned. Then talk to Jesus – tell Him you're sorry...
"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 |
| Believe | You BELIEVE Jesus is the Son of God. He paid the price for your sins, died on the cross and was raised again and lives!
"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life." John 3:36 |
| Confess | You CONFESS to others about your decision! Tell other people about it!!
"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." Romans 10:9-10 |

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.

Here are a couple of questions you will talk about in class. Please write your answers below.

1. Describe what you know about God.

2. Who is Jesus? What do you know about Him?

3. Will reading the Bible, being baptized, going to church, or having a Christian family take away your sin?

4. What does it mean to be a Christian?

5. How do you become one?

6. Describe what baptism is.

My Faith Story

Name: _____

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. Tell us the story of when you came to know Jesus. (When, how old were you, where were you, who you were with, what was going on in your life/that day that brought you to the point of making this decision.)

2. Describe in your own words what Jesus did for you on the cross. Why is that important to you?

3. What changes have been happening in your life since you became a Christ-follower? How is life different for you since making this decision?

4. What is something you are learning from Jesus right now—what is He teaching you?

5. How is God moving in your life? What are you noticing about Him?

6. Why is it important to you to be baptized now?

