



ELEVATE BAPTISM GUIDE
for jr. high students and their parents

Hey!

We're glad you picked up this Baptism info sheet because it means that you are interested in knowing more about baptism...and possibly deciding to GET BAPTIZED!

Baptism is a crazy-cool statement about your decision to follow Jesus with your life! But because it's such a big-deal decision, it's important for you to really take some time to think about what it means and to talk with God about it. We've given you a few scriptures to look up in your Bible and a few questions to think about too.

Also this a great conversation to have with your parents. Don't hesitate to also talk with your small group leader or the Elevate staff. We would love to have that conversation because it is such an amazing experience.

** Scott Rubin, Director of Elevate*



The questions and scriptures below are to help you think through what baptism is all about and if it's the right time for you to get baptized. This is not "homework" but really a cool chance for you to make sure you understand and express what you believe.

(Parents this guide is designed to encourage conversation about baptism with your son/daughter.)

First thoughts:

* Why do you want to get baptized?

* How would you describe baptism to a friend?

* What questions do you have about baptism?

What does Baptism really mean?

Baptism is a way people show that they love God and follow Jesus – it's a public statement of a personal decision. It follows the example Jesus set in **Mark 1:1-10**. Go ahead and read that now. Even though Jesus had no sin, he decided to be baptized!

Check out Ephesians 2:8-9. Being baptized shows that you believe Jesus died to forgive your sins, and that you want to follow him. But baptism doesn't "save" you from your sins; it's a celebration of what you already believe and know to be true!

* How does it make you feel when you think about your sins?

* What does the Bible say is the only thing that saves us from our sins?

* Do you have to be baptized to go to heaven?

Think about the sins and mistakes you've needed forgiveness for. Even write them down on paper – now take a minute and ask God for forgiveness for where we all fall short.

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment you made in your heart to Jesus. It's like a wedding ring – the ring doesn't make you married, but it shows the commitment between husband and wife. Baptism is a life-long commitment that believers desire to keep. Look up Acts 2:41 and Acts 8:35-38.

* Why should a believer be baptized, according to these verses?

* Do you have to “get everything straightened up” in your life before you get baptized? Why or why not?

Read Romans 6:1-5. Paul describes how baptism “joins us” with Jesus. This passage helps us understand the symbolism of the water. Going under the water represents Christ’s death and coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection.

* Why do you think water is used in baptism?

* What does it mean to live a new life (v.4)?

* Do you think being baptized will make you sin less? (this might be a trick question)

What my Baptism says to OTHER PEOPLE?

Baptism isn't a guarantee to a trouble free life. It's simply something that God tells us to do as part of our journey with him – making our faith “public” – and telling others that you are proud to be a Christian!

* Who would you like to be at your baptism?

* Now what would you say to someone who asked you why you decided to get baptized?

Your Decision!

As you've worked through this guide and talked to your parents about baptism...

* Is there anything you read that you're not real sure about?

* What questions do you still have about baptism?

* Do you feel like you are ready to be baptized?

If your answer is "I'm not sure I'm ready yet" then I want to tell you that I'm proud of you for wanting to learn, and for making the best decision for you at this time. We look forward to when you (and your parents) feel like it is time for you to get baptized!

If your answer is "I'm ready" ... then turn the page!

CONGRATULATIONS ON DECIDING TO GET BAPTIZED!

We're thrilled that you've taken the time to really study God's Word and learn about baptism, and that you've talked to your parents about this super-important decision. We celebrate with you!

So now what...

1. Complete a Baptism registration form
2. Attend an Elevate Baptism meeting – they happen a few weeks before the next baptism.
3. Get baptized! You'll receive more details about the day of your baptism through your baptism registration.

For more information on upcoming baptisms email baptism@willowcreek.org or check the willowcreek.org website.

