How to know your child is ready for Baptism.

As a parent, one of the greatest gifts is seeing our children grow in their walk with Jesus. Determining when our children are ready to be baptized is an important decision. Baptism is and should be a big deal in the life of every believer. So, how can you know whether the time is right for your child to take this important step of obedience? Here are some questions to help guide this important decision:

1. Are they asking about Baptism themselves without prompting?
2. Do they understand and have accepted God’s good news for themselves? Some questions to ask your child and answers to look for could be:
   1. What do we need to be saved from? Why? What did God do to save you? (God saves us from our sins (all the wrong things we have ever done, every time we have chosen our way instead of God’s perfect way) through His son Jesus’ death on the cross)
   2. Explain to me how someone could know for sure that they are going to heaven. (We can be sure of going to Heaven because we believe in who Jesus says He is and what He has done)
   3. Have you decided to make Jesus the leader of your life and asked Him to forgive you of all the wrongs things you have ever done? When and what did you do?
3. Do they understand what Baptism is and is not? Some questions to ask your child and answers to look for could be:
   1. What do you think baptism is? (Baptism shows everyone we made a decision on the inside to follow Jesus. ([Acts 8:12](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/ACT.8.12)))
   2. Why do people who follow Jesus get baptized? (Jesus chose to be baptized, so we are following His example. Jesus also tells us to be baptized to show we follow Him, so we are obeying His directions. ([Matthew 3:16-17](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/MAT.3.16-17), [Matthew 28:18-20](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/MAT.28.18-20)))
   3. Do you believe Baptism saves you? (no, only Jesus can save us. Baptism doesn’t take away our sins, it shows the world what we believe Jesus has already done for us)
   4. Why do we go under water when we’re baptized? (Going under the water and coming up again is a symbol that shows we believe Jesus died and came back to life three days later. It shows we understand that our old self that followed sin is dead. Now we’re living a new life following Jesus. ([Romans 6:3-5](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/ROM.6.3-5)))
   5. If baptism shows our old sinful life is dead, why do people still sin after they get baptized? (We should live in a way that doesn’t choose sin. But, since we still live in human bodies, we struggle with sin even when our hearts and minds want to live God’s way. ([Romans 6:1-2](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/ROM.6.1-2), [Romans 7:21-23](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/ROM.7.21-23)))
   6. When you sin, do you need to get baptized again? (No. Remember, your baptism isn’t taking your sins away. It’s showing the world you’ve decided to follow Jesus. When you sin again, tell Jesus what you did, ask Him to forgive you, and He will. ([John 10:27-29](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/JHN.10.27-29), [1 John 1:9](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/1JN.1.9)))
4. Are they ready to stand in front of others to share their decision and Faith Story (Testimony)? Some questions to ask your child could be:
   1. How do you feel about standing up in front of a group of people to share what Jesus has done for you?
   2. Are you ready to make the commitment to tell others in a public setting that you want to follow Jesus for the rest of your life?

If after assessing your child’s readiness you believe that they are ready for baptism, the next step is a personal interview with your child and a member of our team to confirm their understanding and readiness.