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Lakeshore Kids

KIDS BAPTISM

PARENT-CHILD WORKBOOK

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- Matthew 28:19

DEAR PARENTS

We're excited that you and your child are thinking about pursuing baptism! It's clearly something that was important to Jesus, so we're happy that it's important to you as well.

THE INTENTION OF THIS WORKBOOK

We don't do a typical "baptism class" at Lakeshore. We would rather help YOU be the primary spiritual leader in your home. We don't want to steal this teaching opportunity from you, so instead we want to help you with it! This workbook is meant to be done with your child. It shouldn't take much time, and it will give you good direction so you can do two things with confidence:

1- Teach your child about baptism.

2- Determine if they are ready, or if they should wait a bit longer.

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PARENT PREP: KEY SCRIPTURES

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to teach your kids spiritual things! So here are the basics about baptism. Look over these BEFORE you sit down with your kid.

Jesus told us to baptize his disciples (followers).
And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
-Matthew 28:18-20

A symbol of entering into the death/resurrection of Jesus.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
-Romans 6:3-4

It's an outward sign of an inward commitment of faith.
When they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women. Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip...
-Acts 8:12-13

It comes right after "conversion" (new faith)
Those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day.
-Acts 2:41

PARENT PREP: Q & A

Here are the answers to a few commonly asked questions about baptism.

Does a person have to be baptized to be saved?

Nope. Although there is no excuse not to be baptized, nothing can be added to faith as the one saving act. Faith in Christ alone saves us. Anything else is called “works based righteousness” and we don’t believe that.

What if I was baptized when I was a baby?

We would view that as a dedication, not a believer’s baptism. They are different. We would invite you, if you’ve placed your faith in Christ to be baptized as a sign of your faith.

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who puts their faith in Christ! Anyone who confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord should be baptized.

What if I was baptized years ago, but fell away? Should I be re-baptized?

There is no need to be re-baptized. We don’t see anyone in the Bible being baptized more than once. God has given us the gift of repentance which we should do regularly, but you never have to be re-baptized. It’s a one-time thing.

PARENT-CHILD BIBLE DISCUSSION

PARENTS, this is for you to sit down and have a discussion with your kid. We suggest you don't just get their answer, but tell them yours, too. Take your time, and do this together.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORY IN THE BIBLE?

WHAT HAPPENED WITH ADAM AND EVE? WHAT DID THEY DO?

WHAT'S THE WORD FOR THINGS THAT MAKE GOD ANGRY OR SAD? (HINT: IT STARTS WITH AN S)

HAS EVERYONE SINNED? HOW ABOUT REALLY NICE PEOPLE?

CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY SINS YOU'VE DONE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO SIN? DOES GOD DISCIPLINE THEM? WHY?

WHAT DID GOD DO TO RESCUE US AND FORGIVE US OF SIN?

HOW DO WE GET FORGIVENESS FROM GOD? DO WE JUST HAVE TO BE REALLY GOOD TO MAKE GOD HAPPY?

WHEN WE GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY WE SING. WHY? WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT THE BIBLE? WHAT IS CONFUSING YOU?

THE WHO & WHAT OF BAPTISM

PARENTS, this is meant to help you explain what baptism is. Use the discussion questions below and others that come to mind.

WHO GETS BAPTIZED? LET'S LOOK AND SEE:

Let's read the Great Commission (which is Jesus' big assignment for us) together and see who is supposed to get baptized. Jesus said:

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

- First, what do you think a "disciple" is? If you don't know, let look it up!
- Who is the "them" in the verse? Who gets baptized?
- So, the question is, are you a disciple? Do you think you are?How come?



WHAT IS BAPTISM? WHAT HAPPENS?

The word "baptism" means "to put in water," but baptism is more than just dunking your dog in water, as much fun as that it!

Read this story about someone getting baptized, and see what baptism is: "*As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! What can't I be baptized?" he ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.*"

So, what happens to a person when they get baptized? Who does it to them?

THE WHY & WHERE OF BAPTISM

PARENTS, here are more discussion questions for you.

Why do people get baptized? Should I?

Hmmm. See we know that disciples are the ones who get baptized, and being baptized means someone else dunks you in water. But why?

Let's read Romans 6:3-5 to see why people get baptized: "...That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, it was like leaving the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, it was like entering a new country called grace – a new life in a new land!"

That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.

So what does that mean? Who are you being like when you get baptized?

Where do people get baptized?

Let's read Acts 2:41 to see where people get baptized: *"Then those people who accepted what Peter had said [about Jesus] were baptized/ About 3,000 people!..."*

Do people get baptized in front of other people, or alone, so no one can see?

Why do you think baptism is done in front of lots of people?

CHILD QUIZ

KIDS, this is for you. Try it without any help!

1- Being baptized is which of the following?

a) something all kids do
b) for all kids who parents go to church
c) for kids & adults who have decided to follow Jesus
d) for kids who are really nice

2- Baptism is when you:

a) go to church and pray to God with others
b) get put under water because you love Jesus
c) sing in a kids choir
d) turn 9 years old

3- Jesus said that people should get baptized:

a) in order for God to love you more
b) because you can't go to heaven if you don't
c) even if you're unsure about it
d) to show others that you want to follow Him forever

4- I am ready to get baptized if:

a) I believe that Jesus died & came back to life
b) I trust Jesus has washed away my sin
c) I want everyone to know that I am a Christian
d) All of the above

5- To be "saved" by Jesus means:

a) you no longer do bad things, like you used to
b) you make God happy by going to church
c) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith, not because of what you do
d) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith and because you started doing more good things

CHILD TESTIMONY

KIDS, write your answers, with no help at first.

DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED? YES NO

IF YES, WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

WHEN DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

WHY DID YOU SAY YES TO JESUS? WHY DID YOU SAY YES TO FOLLOWING HIM AND LOVING HIM?

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS HAS SAVED YOU FROM YOUR SIN?

DO YOU PROMISE TO FOLLOW JESUS THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

PARENT ASSESSMENT

PARENTS, we want to caution you here. It is very tempting to assume your child is ready to be baptized. We'll ultimately leave it to your discretion, but here are a few things to consider before you say yes. You don't have to write your answers.

DOES YOUR CHILD TRULY GRASP THE WEIGHT OF THEIR SIN?

We think that most kids can't grasp it until they're in 1st or 2nd grade, though there are exceptions.

DOES YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND JESUS' WORK TO CLEAR THEM OF THAT SIN?

HAVE YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERED YOUR CHILD'S FAITH, AND DO YOU FEEL LIKE BAPTISM IS THE NEXT STEP OF THEIR FAITH? OR SHOULD THEY WAIT?

Our experience is that many kids who are baptized before they are 13 years old will want to be baptized in Junior High, claiming that their faith "became real" and "their own" at the time.

ARE YOU CONVINCED YOUR CHILD IS MAKING THIS DECISION BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN FAITH, NOT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE THEY FEEL FROM YOU OR THE CHURCH?

If the answer is YES to these questions, and your child is READY TO BE BAPTIZED, please sign him/her up on our next baptism service.

I AM BAPTIZED, NOW WHAT?

KIDS, these are the next steps in your walk with God.

SEEK GOD DAILY

The most important commandment God gives is to love him above anything else. When you love someone, you seek a relationship with them. This includes reading your Bible, praying and leaning in to God's promises.

FIND COMMUNITY

Nothing is harder than trying to do life alone. Finding people to walk alongside of you in life is key to staying on the right path. God created us as social people, no matter how introverted you are! Your tribe will be there to help you, sharpen you and support you.

START SERVING

This could be as simple as making someone smile or spreading the Gospel. God has given you specific talents and He wants to work in and through you. Get plugged in at your local church.

READ GALATIANS 5:22-25

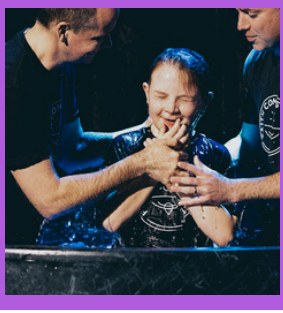
Big idea: Following Jesus isn't easy but it is simple.
Your number one goal from this point forward is to listen to Jesus and to do what He says. It's nothing fancy or really complicated, but it's the very best way to move forward.

It is spiritually impossible to follow Jesus and remain the same. As we listen to him and do what He says, we will see how it's true that growing people change. The changes aren't from your own ideas or strength, but by the guidance of the Holy Spirit – that's the spirit of God living inside of us. He's the one who gives us the power to love and forgive others, to grow in faith, and to say no to sin and yes to Jesus. These kind of qualities will continue to show up more and more in our lives as we seek Jesus!

The truth is we won't have all the answers automatically. Our lives won't instantaneously be cleaned up and easy, but that's not the point - a relationship with Jesus is the point. Our public step in baptism is just the beginning of the changes God will bring through us.








FAITH COMES TO LIFE



Lakeshore Kids

A Children's Ministry of
Lakeshore Christian Fellowship

Lakeshore
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP