


Baptism



**WE WERE THEREFORE
BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH
BAPTISM INTO DEATH IN
ORDER THAT, JUST AS
CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM
THE DEAD THROUGH THE
GLORY OF THE FATHER, WE
TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE.**

ROMANS 6:4

We are made to move...

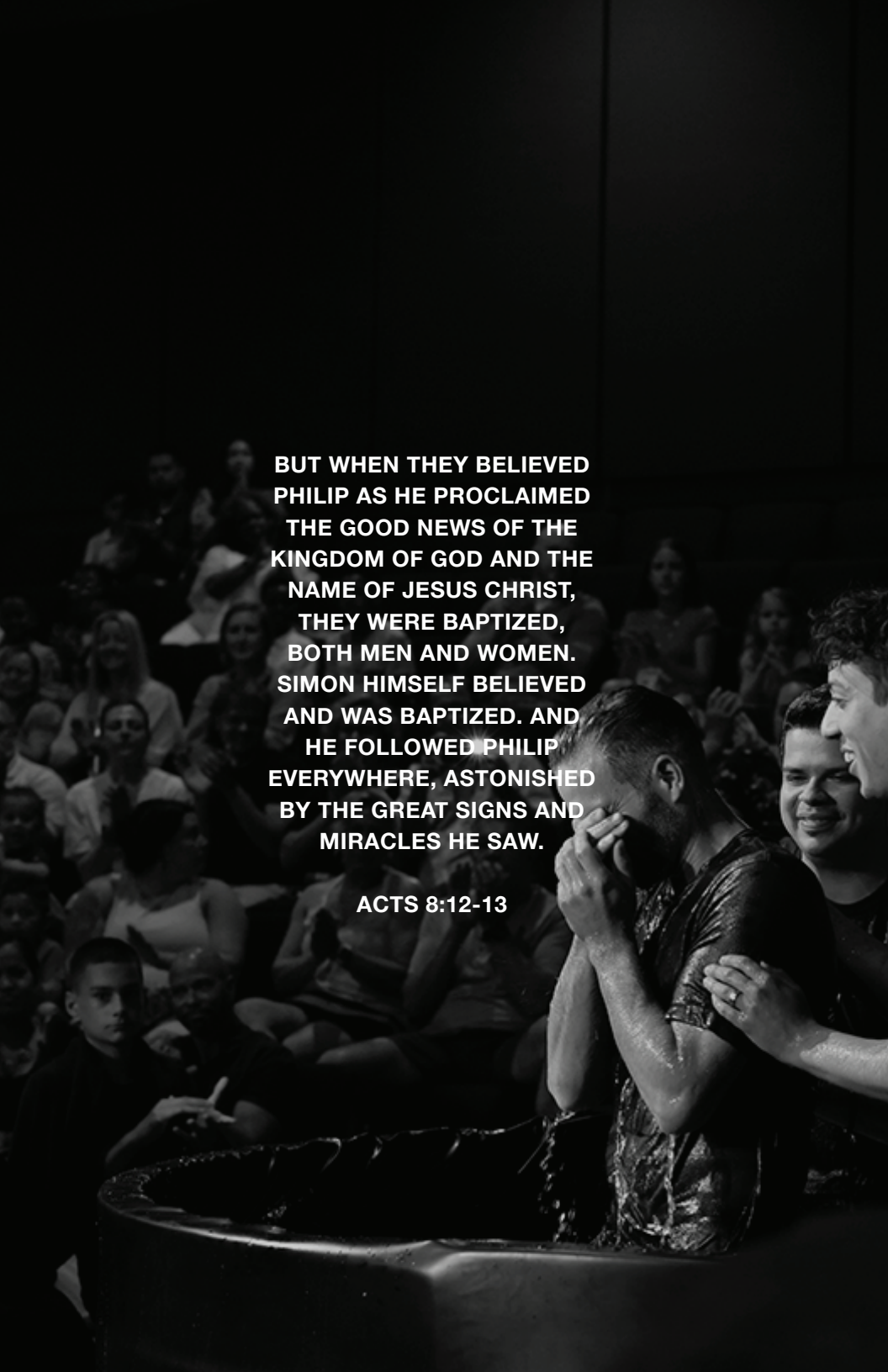
WE MUST BE REMINDED DAILY THAT FOLLOWING AFTER JESUS NEVER MEANS STANDING STILL. THERE IS ALWAYS A NEXT STEP.

Making a decision to be baptized is an exciting and important step on your journey with Jesus. As a church, our heart is to come alongside you in every next step to support, encourage and answer any questions you may have. There may be a number of reasons why you feel hesitant or anxious about taking the next step of baptism. Perhaps some negative thoughts come to mind when you hear the word baptism, or you may be confused about what baptism even is and why it's necessary. These questions and doubts are normal, but we should never allow them to become excuses to keep us from doing what God is leading us to. Within this resource, we will explain what baptism represents, citing biblical examples and sharing what this step practically means for you and your family. Hopefully, after going through this packet, you will have clarity, peace, and confidence in taking this next step!

Why should I be Baptized?

THE BIBLE STATES THAT EVERY PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST SHOULD BE PUBLICLY BAPTIZED.

A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God and given up all personal efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. A believer in Jesus has concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between themselves and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are a follower of Jesus and you should be baptized. Baptism, at its core, is a demonstration of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus! It is a way to share your testimony about what God has done in you with people who may not know your story.



**BUT WHEN THEY BELIEVED
PHILIP AS HE PROCLAIMED
THE GOOD NEWS OF THE
KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE
NAME OF JESUS CHRIST,
THEY WERE BAPTIZED,
BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.
SIMON HIMSELF BELIEVED
AND WAS BAPTIZED. AND
HE FOLLOWED PHILIP
EVERYWHERE, ASTONISHED
BY THE GREAT SIGNS AND
MIRACLES HE SAW.**

ACTS 8:12-13

Four Reasons

YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

One reason may not be enough, so here are four more reasons why it is a good idea for you and any follower of Jesus to be baptized publicly.

01

IT FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE SET BY CHRIST

Jesus himself was baptized, and in that modeled something he wanted his followers to also do.

Mark 1:9 “At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”

02

IT FULFILLS A COMMANDMENT FROM CHRIST

Not only did Jesus use himself as an example in what he did, but he also commanded his followers to place a high value on people stepping forward to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

03

IT DEMONSTRATES PUBLICLY THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

We were never called to be secret Christians or to be ashamed of our faith or afraid of what people will think. Baptism is a public declaration that you are a Christian. Salvation in Jesus is a wonderful thing to be celebrated and nothing to be insecure about.

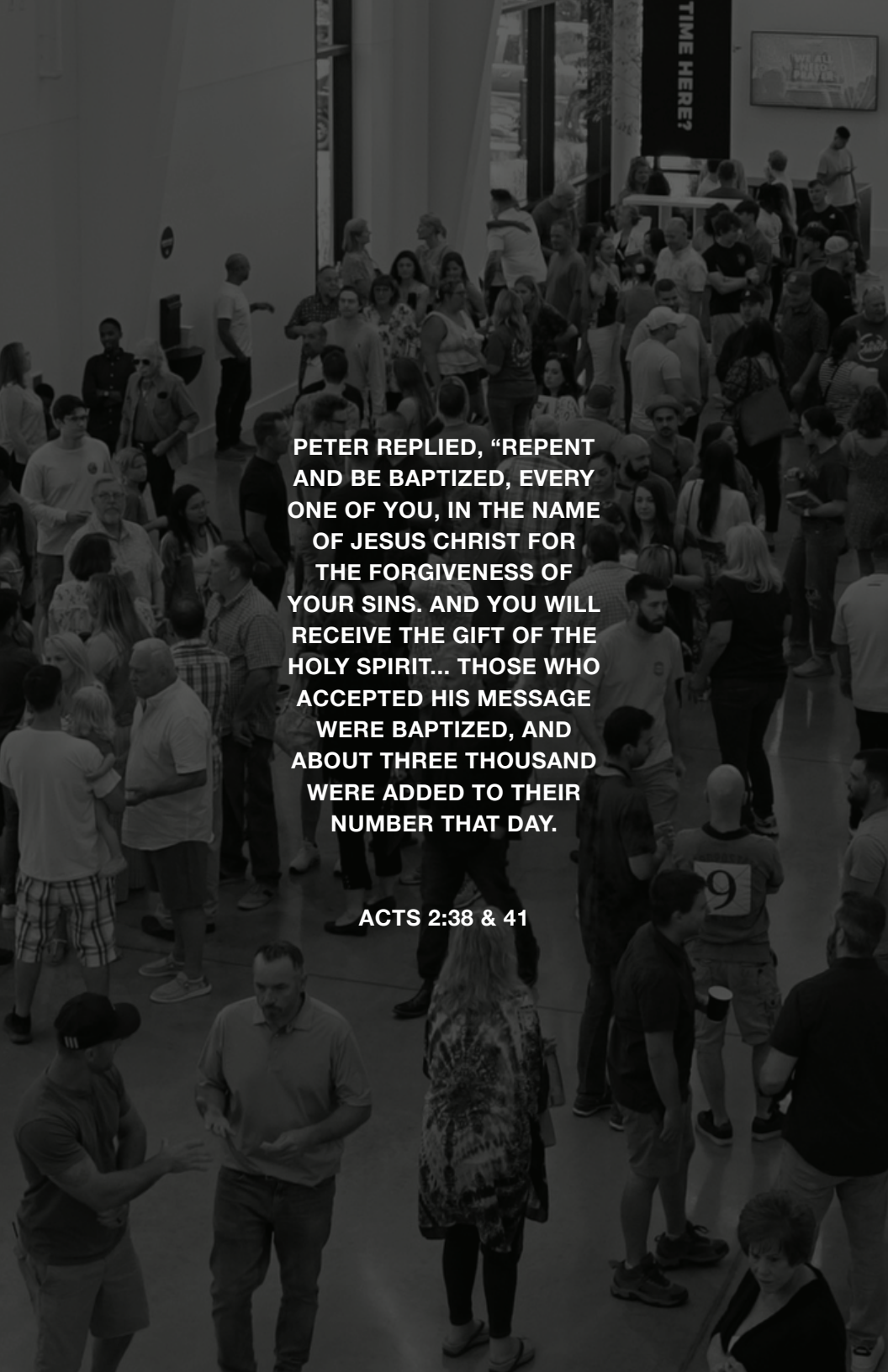
1 John 2:3 “We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.”

04

IT IS A GREAT EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITY

Baptisms are a great opportunity to invite friends and family out to a church-related event, even if they are hesitant about going to church. They will come out to support you because it is meaningful to you and in doing so they will witness many testimonies and stories of life change and transformation. What an amazing opportunity to see and hear the gospel!

Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.



**PETER REPLIED, “REPENT
AND BE BAPTIZED, EVERY
ONE OF YOU, IN THE NAME
OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE FORGIVENESS OF
YOUR SINS. AND YOU WILL
RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT... THOSE WHO
ACCEPTED HIS MESSAGE
WERE BAPTIZED, AND
ABOUT THREE THOUSAND
WERE ADDED TO THEIR
NUMBER THAT DAY.**

ACTS 2:38 & 41

What Baptism is not...

BAPTISM IS NOT SALVATION.

It is not baptism that saves you, but salvation, which is accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Salvation is an inward decision that is made in your heart. In contrast, Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision and is only done after someone has repented and confessed with their mouth and believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

BAPTISM DOES NOT REMOVE SIN

There is a misconception that baptism "washes" away sin. This is not what baptism is. Sin is removed from a person through repentance, which like salvation, is an inward decision to turn away from sin and hand that sin over to Jesus. Like the classic hymn says, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

BAPTISM IS NOT A SUPERNATURAL BLESSING

You are not being dunked in holy water. When you rise up out of the water the problems in your life will not supernaturally be fixed and sorted out. Often, people place hope and faith in events and actions that they take when it is Jesus who works in our hearts and changes us from the inside out.

BAPTISM IS NOT A PRE-REQUISITE FOR JOINING CHRISTIANITY

You are not a Christian because you were baptized. You are a Christian because you have chosen to be a follower of Christ. One thing that a follower of Christ will do is to follow the example of Jesus in being baptized, but that doesn't mean that you weren't a follower of Jesus before you were baptized! In this way, we should never look at baptism as just another thing to do to check off some good works checklist. Baptism is a symbol of something that already happened.

When should I be Baptized?

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: AS SOON AS YOU CAN!

Now that you know what baptism is and why it's important, the next question to ask is when you should be baptized. The answer is simple; as soon as you can! All throughout the book of Acts, we read that as soon people believed in the name of the Lord, they were baptized that day. Here are a few examples:

Acts 2:41 "Those who believed were baptized that day."


Acts 8:35-38 "Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

The Bible teaches that there is no reason to delay your baptism or continue to put it off. After becoming a believer, you should participate in the next available opportunity your church provides for baptism. Keep in mind that you don't have to be baptized in front of a large crowd. It could be just you and a christian friend or family member in a pool, lake, or river. The reason we encourage people to sign up for baptism here at church is because of the evangelistic opportunities. Either way, if you keep putting it off or wait until you feel you are a "good enough" believer, you will never feel ready for baptism.



**THOSE WHO BELIEVED
WERE BAPTIZED THAT DAY.**

ACTS 2:41



**WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES
A CHRISTIAN HE BECOMES
A BRAND-NEW PERSON
INSIDE. THE OLD LIFE HAS
PASSED AWAY AND A NEW
LIFE HAS BEGUN!**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Who should be Baptized?

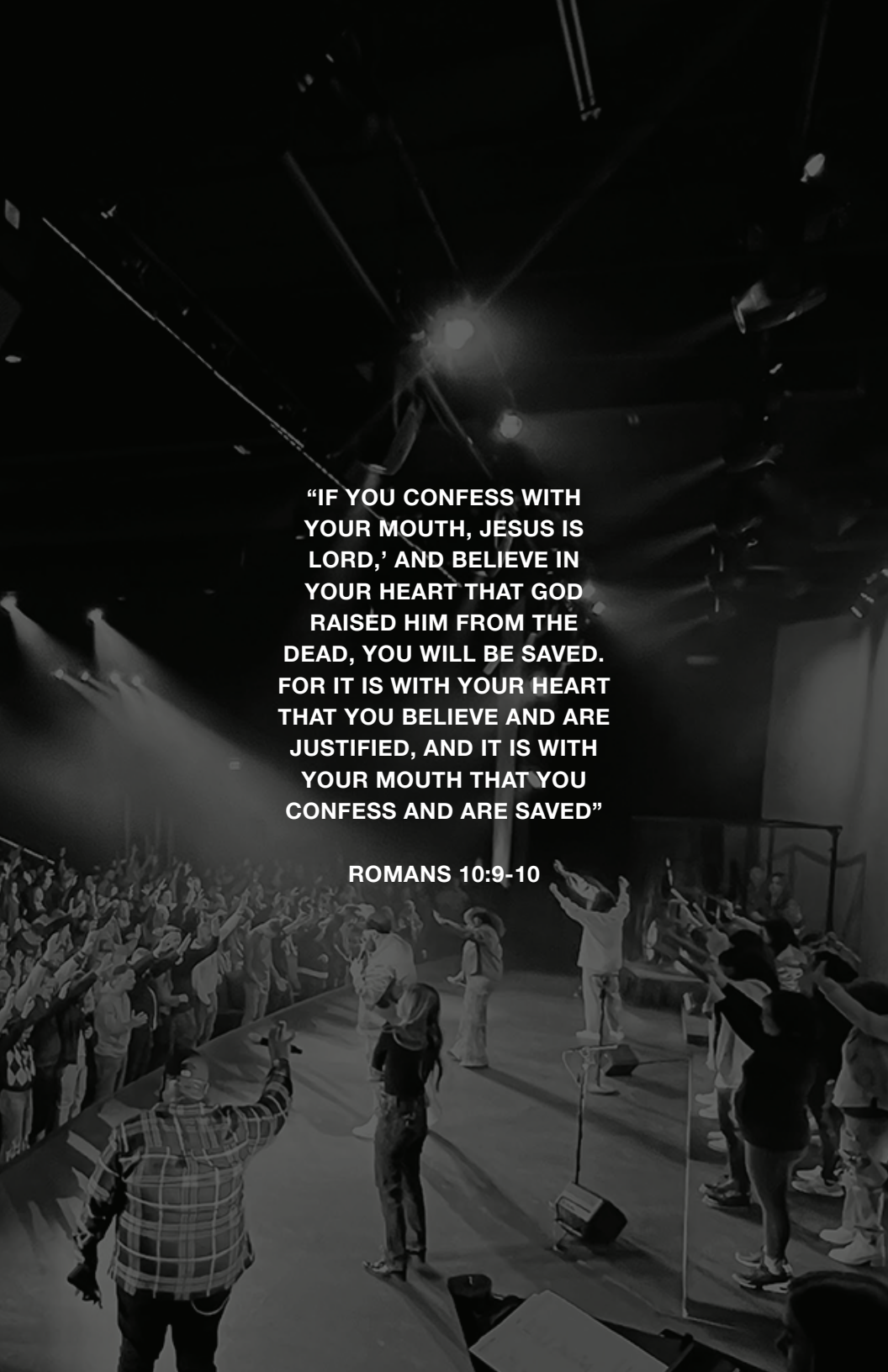
THE BIBLE SAYS THAT EVERY PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.

Remember, a believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all personal efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between themselves and God and have decided to trust Christ alone for salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you should be baptized. If you've been a Christian for many years and were never baptized, it's not too late. The only requirement is that you are a Christian, whether that decision was 50 years ago or yesterday.

Can infants be baptized?

In the Bible, we see parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But Jesus did not baptize them, and he did not tell anyone else to baptize them. If baptism signifies salvation, as the Bible teaches, only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. Thus, the Bible would indicate that baptism is for people who have reached an age of understanding and have made an informed decision to follow Christ. If you have not experienced a believer's baptism, even though you may have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism have yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

True North Church practices baby dedication. This is a time when parents pledge their commitment to raising their children according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism, according to the Bible.



**“IF YOU CONFESS WITH
YOUR MOUTH, JESUS IS
LORD,’ AND BELIEVE IN
YOUR HEART THAT GOD
RAISED HIM FROM THE
DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.
FOR IT IS WITH YOUR HEART
THAT YOU BELIEVE AND ARE
JUSTIFIED, AND IT IS WITH
YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU
CONFESS AND ARE SAVED”**

ROMANS 10:9-10

Can children be baptized?

WE BELIEVE THAT AS PARENTS, YOU ARE THE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.

As parents, navigating the spiritual lives of our children is an honor, one that is both exciting and at times challenging. As a church, our heart is to come alongside you in your parenting journey and help equip and resource you as you ultimately decide when your child is ready to take a step in their journey. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we then joyously baptize them in the Christian faith after conferring with you as the parents.

Having a conversation with your child is as easy as **ABC**. The ABCs of salvation will help you gauge the understanding your child has about taking their next step in their walk with God and is what we will be looking for when we meet prior to baptism.

ABCs of Salvation

ADMIT

Does your child understand the concept of sin and that everyone has sinned? Do they understand that everyone needs salvation? Admitting they have sinned and need Jesus is step one as it shows an understanding of repentance!

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

BELIEVE

Believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness from sin. God loves each of us. God offers us salvation. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love, He wants to have a relationship with us! Believing is step two as it shows an understanding of Grace.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"

CONFESS

Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior to both Him and to others is step three. It shows a clear understanding of both repentance and grace and that Christ is the answer!

Romans 10:9-10 "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved"



Here to Help

If you believe your child may be ready for baptism but have questions, please contact a member of the pastoral team.

What's Your Next Step?

Our prayer is that this resource challenges you to continually pursue Jesus in all areas of your life. Whether your next step is dedication or something else all together, keep moving!

Next Steps

Take your next step and give via the True North app. Scan the QR code on the following page to download the app.

Joining a Crew
Joining a Team and Start to Serve
Starting to Tithe
Applying to True North College
Registering for an Open Course



NEXT STEP RESOURCES

Visit the resource page on our website. There are messages and resources related to each topic below.

Praying to be spirit-filled
Starting a daily habit of prayer
Beginning a Bible reading or Bible study plan
Letting go of bitterness and unforgiveness
Marriage and Parenting
Budgeting and Stewardship
Addiction





TRUE NORTH CHURCH
TRUENORTH.CC