

Baptism

BECOMING LIKE JESUS - Small Group Resource

Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:1-17) serves as an example for us to follow. When a person gives their life to Jesus, baptism is the next step for that person to publicly confess what Jesus has done in washing their sin away. It symbolizes dying to the old life and being resurrected to a new life in Christ. It is the believer's declaration to others and to the spiritual realm that their allegiance is to Jesus Christ.

Small Group Dialogue

- For those who have been baptized, tell us a bit about it and share what that experience meant to you.
- For those who haven't yet been baptized, have you ever considered it? Why or why not?

How to shepherd someone through the baptism process

1. **Getting started:** Have the person wanting to be baptized go through the information and the sermon found at <https://www.heartlandalliance.ca/baptism>. This will give them an outline of the steps to take to prepare for their baptism. As a small group leader, go over these questions with them.
 - **Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?** It is good to have someone describe how they have come to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Do they have a personal experience and are they able to share it?
 - **Do you have any questions come up because of going through the baptism material?** Take time to debrief if they have any questions about the video lesson about baptism.
 - **Do you need help writing your testimony?** Take time to talk with them about their story and how God has moved in their life. What key Scripture and experiences can you pin down.
 - **Do you have people praying for you?** Encourage them to have people praying for them and any spiritual warfare that may work to oppose this step in their faith.

2. **Shepherding them through the journey:** Once a pastor has given approval that this person is ready for baptism there are some ways you can help the person prepare.
- **Who are the important and spiritually mature people that you would like to include in this step?** Help them determine one person who will give an encouragement and one person who will pray for them on the day of the baptism.
 - **Who should you invite?** Include loved ones! Remind them to invite family and friends to the day.
 - **How can this be used as an opportunity to share your faith with non-Christians?** Encourage them to consider inviting non-Christians to this important event.
3. **Shepherding on the day of the baptism:** This is the day! Take time to pray for them as they prepare. Likely they are nervous and in need of encouragement to move forward in confidence.
- Take time to write an encouragement to the person who is getting baptized.
 - Send them a text in the days and day of the baptism to remind them that you are praying for them and deal with any concerns that may have come up.
 - Go over the Baptism Worksheet (https://storage.snappages.site/KH4XBG/assets/files/Baptism_Study_Worksheet.pdf)
 - Determine what you will say when you are in the tank. It's good to say something like, "based upon your profession of faith I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."
4. **Shepherding after baptism:**
- Follow up with them a few days after their baptism.
 - Continue to pray for them and encourage them to continue in their journey with God.

Additional Leader Resources

In certain circumstances, there is the option to do the baptism in a small group setting and have the video shown during the weekend services.

Baptism - Study Worksheet

When the people heard (the Gospel), they were cut to the heart and said... “What shall we do?” Peter replied , “_____ and _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of your sins. And you will _____ the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

What is Baptism?

It is an _____ with the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus Christ.

Identification (Romans 6:3-11)

Death (Colossians 1:12, Romans 6:1-4)

- What are some things to which you need to die?
- Are there things in your life that won't stay buried?

Resurrection (Ephesians 1:18-20)

It is a _____ confession. (Matthew 10:32-33)

- How do you presently make Jesus Christ known to others?
- If you don't, why not?

Who should be baptized?

Those who are _____ of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38, 8:12, 26-38)

- When did you become a follower of Jesus Christ?

Those who _____ and _____. (1 John 5:18)

- Is there a sin for which you won't repent?

Those who are a part of the _____. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Romans 12:4-5)

- When did you make Heartland your church home?
- What is something that makes you feel like this is family?

Why should I be baptized?

It is a _____ for those who have _____ their life to Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38)

Jesus' baptism set an example for us to _____. (Matthew 3:13-17, John 14:15, James 4:17)

Where should I be baptized?

In _____ ... lots of _____. Mark 1:4-10, "... coming up out of the water ..."

Acts 8:39, "... when they came up out of the water ..."

With your _____. (Ephesians 3:14-15, John 1:12)

When should I be baptized?

ASAP

- Is what I'm doing (baptism) truly an outward expression of an inward reality?

Steps to be baptized at Heartland:

- complete this study worksheet (also available online at <https://www.heartlandalliance.ca/baptism>) and write your testimony (400 words or less)
- send both to baptism@heartlandalliance.ca
- register online or through the church office
- choose a pastor or small group leader
- your pastor and/or small group leader will meet with you to ensure your readiness and review your study worksheet and testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.

(https://storage.snappages.site/KH4XBG/assets/files/Baptism_Study_Worksheet.pdf)