

Raised  
to life



**KIDS**

1st-5th Grade  
Baptism Booklet

# HP Kids Guide to Baptism

*This is a brief guide to help you understand baptism and figure out whether or not your child is ready for it. Use a Bible to look up the verses listed throughout this guide. (We've also printed them on the last page!)*

## Baptism is a BIG deal!

It's a one-time, grand announcement declaring that you follow Jesus because you believe He rescued you. Instead of telling people one by one, you show a whole lot of them at once!

This is a special celebration of how you have made a commitment to follow Jesus with your whole life!

This packet will help you understand a little more about baptism and why it is important to be baptized.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all! Let's do it!

Pastor Tyler

# Baptism is...

Any person, kid or adult, who gets baptized should understand what he or she is showing others. In kid-friendly terms, baptism is kind of like saying...

**I need a rescuer.** Everybody has done wrong things. It all started when God told Adam not to eat from one tree in the Garden of Eden. God said, "If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die" (Genesis 2:17). Unfortunately, God's enemy, the snake, tricked Adam and Eve into thinking God didn't really love them. So they chose to disobey him (Genesis 3:1-6). That's when death and all the wrong things in the world began. Adam and Eve eventually died. And now everyone who disobeys God - which is all of us - deserves the same punishment (Romans 3:23).

**God sent a rescuer.** God created us to love and be close to him, forever. And he loved us way too much to let death stand in the way of that. So he sent his own, perfect son Jesus - who didn't deserve death - to take our punishment (John 3:16). But Jesus didn't stay dead; he came back to life. Jesus took our punishment by dying - and got rid of it by coming back to life. Since Jesus beat death, now death can't separate us from God anymore (Romans 8:38-39).

**Jesus is MY rescuer.** There is nothing any of us can do to make up for the wrong things we have done. Even if we do a million good things, it's not enough (Ephesians 2:8-9). But this rescue is a special gift God gives us all for free. And just like we have to open presents if we want to see what's inside, we have to decide that we want God's gift. Making that choice is like opening our present! When we do, God sees us as his very own children (John 1:12). That means we are close to him again.

**I follow Jesus.** Ephesians 5:1-2 says: "You are the children that God dearly loves. So be just like him. Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. He was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God." Leading a life of love in this world full of wrong things is not easy (Romans 8:17). And we will definitely mess up sometimes. But, if we accept God's gift and do our best to live like Jesus, we will one day live with him forever in a perfect world, where there is no sickness or sadness or death or anything bad. That will be worth the wait (Revelation 21:1-4).

# Why Should I Get Baptized?

**Most importantly, Jesus wants us to get baptized.** After all, he got baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), and following Jesus means doing what he did. Also, he told people to get baptized in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.” Once we decide to follow Jesus (which is what it means to be a disciple) we should obey him by getting baptized. Being baptized does not save us, but accepting God’s free gift of salvation through Jesus is what saves us. Being baptized is something God wants us to do after we give our life to Him by believing in Jesus.

**Baptism is a picture of the rescue Jesus provides.** Baptism is a symbol of what Jesus did on the cross and also what he did when he rose from the dead. When we go under the water, it reminds us of how Jesus died and was buried. When we come up out of the water, it reminds us of how Jesus came back to life. We can now learn to live like Jesus did, and do what he wants us to do. (Romans 6:3-4)

**Baptism is a picture of how we have been made clean by God.** When Jesus rescued us, it was like he wiped away all the wrong things we had done, just like water washes away dirt (Romans 6:23). The water in baptism shows people that we have told God we are sorry for all the wrong things we have done. We have asked God to forgive us and make us clean through Jesus (Psalm 103:10-12).

# Is My Child Ready to be Baptized?

There is no “right” age or action to indicate your child is ready. It is hard to know exactly when anyone is ready, because baptism is an outward expression of an inward choice to follow Jesus.

So let your child initiate the conversation. Don't force baptism upon him or her or make your child think it is something that has to be done before they can be a Christian. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us there is nothing we can do to rescue ourselves from sin. Also, remind your child that baptism is not what saves them. Salvation only comes from trusting in Jesus Christ as the Savior of our sins and following him with your life. This is a great time to talk to your child about salvation and ensure that they have a basic understanding and have made a personal choice to give their life to Jesus. Baptism follows salvation and lets everyone know about the choice your child has made.

If your child comes to you and asks about baptism, talk about what baptism announces to people and why we do it. If he or she can express a personal understanding of salvation and baptism and still wants to take the step, great! If not, use the discussion as an opportunity to talk more about Jesus and the rescue he provides to us. We believe that as parents and guardians you are an excellent gauge of whether or not you feel your child is ready for baptism.

We understand that at Highland Park there are many different denominations represented within our church family. This also brings many different interpretations regarding baptism. We follow the doctrinal statements of baptism from the Church of the Nazarene as outlined in our Articles of Faith:

*We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.*

*Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.*

*Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.*

*(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)*

The amazing staff of our Children's Ministry is always ready to help as well and answer any questions you or your child might have regarding baptism.

# What to Expect on Baptism day.

**What to Wear.** Your child can wear a pair of swim trunk or shorts and a colored t-shirt. Your child will receive a t-shirt they can wear for the baptism and they get to keep the t-shirt to commemorate the experience.

**What to Bring.** Please bring a change of clothes and a towel for after baptism. There are restrooms near the baptismal where your children can change into dry clothes.

**Where Do I Go?** In the Main Sanctuary, you will go upstairs and follow the hallway to the area behind the baptismal. There will be a host that will get you checked in and give you any pertinent information.

**When Do I Arrive?** Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled service of when your child is being baptized. For example, if your child is being baptized at the 10am service, arrive by 9:45am to the designated area.

**What Happens?** The Children's Pastor or Director generally baptizes elementary children. They will be in the baptism area and will greet the kids and explain to them exactly what to expect. Once in the tank or pool, the person baptizing the kids will ask them if they have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior, the kids will hold their nose with their right hand, and then grasp their right forearm with their left hand (this gives the baptizer a "handle" to hold), and then the adult will lower them into the water and bring them right back up. The kids will then exit the tank and be given a towel by the host. We do ask that at least one adult stays in the baptismal area with the kids to help them get changed afterward and to take them to Kid's Church or to the sanctuary.

## Here are the Bible verses in the order they appear in the guide (NIRV):

Genesis 2:17 But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die.

Genesis 3:1-6 1 The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We can eat the fruit of the trees that are in the garden. 3 But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'" 4 "You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God." 6 The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasing to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it.

Romans 3:23 Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory.

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Romans 8:38-39 38 I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. 39 Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

Ephesians 2:8-9 8 God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. 9 It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.

John 1:12 Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.

Romans 8:17 As his children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in his sufferings if we want to share in his glory.

Revelation 21:1-4 1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone. There was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Now God makes his home with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be."

Matthew 3:13-17 13 Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He wanted to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to stop him. He told Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Then John agreed. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. 17 A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

Romans 6:3-4 3 All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into his death? 4 By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life.

Psalms 103:10-12 10 He doesn't punish us for our sins as much as we should be punished. He doesn't pay us back in keeping with the evil things we've done. 11 His love for those who have respect for him is as high as the heavens are above the earth. 12 He has removed our lawless acts from us as far as the east is from the west.

Romans 6:23 When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.