



Baptism Journal

An 8-Day Study on the Meaning of Baptism

Congratulations!!

We are so excited for you as you pursue your next step towards Christ through baptism. When you choose to be baptized, it is your way of showing and declaring to the world that you are a true believer and follower of Jesus. Baptism tells the amazing story of how Jesus rescued us from sin through His death and resurrection and how we are forever His by placing our faith in Him. Baptism doesn't save us, only Jesus can, but it does display a beautiful and vivid picture of how Jesus has rescued us. It is an incredible celebration of how our lives have been completely transformed by Jesus!

The purpose of this journal is to help walk you through the gospel and help prepare you for baptism. Take the time to walk through this book with your parents and work through the questions you find along your way. Reflect on all that Jesus has done on your behalf and pray that He will guide you and give you understanding as you seek to know and love Him more and more.

-The gK! team

Dear Parents,

This journal is for you too! It can be used as a tool to help you generate discussion about your child accepting Jesus into his/ her heart and getting baptized. Your child may have many questions. Be ready to spend some time talking through this journey with them. In this journal we have included some talking points to help you start conversations with your child.

Be sure to give your child time. This is not something that can be rushed. Your child should not feel pressured by family or peers. This is the biggest decision of his/ her life, and it needs to be their decision.

Allow the Holy Spirit to work. Partner with the Holy Spirit in praying for your child. Remember your goal is to assist in their understanding so your child will be able to make the decision on their own.

In graceKIDS! we want to partner with you as you lead your child towards Christ. Included in this journal is a spot for you to write a note to your child. To encourage them and tell them how proud you are of the decision they have made to follow Jesus.

If your child does make the decision to get baptized, we would like to schedule a personal appointment with them before baptism. Please email gracekids@discovergrace.com to schedule that appointment.

-The gK! team

DAY 1

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Who is Jesus? What made him unique or different from everyone else?

Why did Jesus die? What did Jesus' death and resurrection accomplish for us?

What is sin? And what are the consequences for sin?

How does the death of Jesus accomplish our salvation?

What must a person do to be saved?

Why is it good news that sins can be forgiven?

Read
JOHN 14:6



Some people don't believe Jesus is who He said He was. Look at the list of words below. Cross through the descriptions that some people give Jesus but that don't line up with what He said about Himself. (Note: they may not be bad things; they're just not ALL that Jesus was!) Circle the words that you think (or know) Jesus used to talk about Himself.

A GOOD TEACHER
TRUTH
PROPHET
LIFE
SAVIOR
LIAR
LIGHT OF THE WORLD
CRAZY
WAY
SON OF GOD

Thankfully, Jesus was more than a prophet, more than a good teacher, and He wasn't crazy! When we believe who Jesus is, the Son of God who died for our sins, we can live with God forever.

**ASK GOD TO REMIND YOU WHO HE IS
THROUGH WHAT HE DOES FOR YOU.**

Answers: Cross through good teacher, prophet, liar, crazy Circle truth, life, Savior, light of the world, way, Son of God



OUR SIN PROBLEM

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden they brought sin into the world. Sin separates us from God and has broken our world. It is deceptive and tricky. It makes us forget the promises and truth of our God and believe the lie instead. When we sin, we turn from God and His ways in order to do what we think is best. Sin always hurts us and leads to our destruction and death. BUT, thankfully, God did not leave us in our sin and brokenness! **He loved us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us and die on the cross for our sin, in our place.** Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we have forgiveness of sin and our broken relationship with God is made whole.



WHAT YOU DO:

Think about your sin, how it hurts God and hurts you. Confess, or tell God the different ways that you have turned from Him and chosen your ways over His. Remember how Jesus came to rescue you from your sin and how He died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin. Jesus has taken your sin and you are forgiven! He loves you SO much, with such a great big love that you can never be separated from Him. **Nothing you do will ever be too big or too bad for His love to forgive you.**

DAY 4

HOW AM I SAVED?

(Today is a great day to do this devotion with your mom or dad)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

[What we need to know about God...]



G O D L O V E D

God loved you before you were even born. He loves you right now. But there is something that separates us from him. It's called sin. It's the stuff we do wrong. Because God is perfect, there is no way we can get into God's family on our own. But because God loved, he did what people who love do. He gave.

Parents, ask Your Child:

1. How do you know God loves you?
2. What is sin?
3. Have you ever sinned?
4. What separates you from God?

G O D G A V E

God gave you the most important, valuable, and perfect thing he had. He knew that our sin would keep us out of his family forever. Our sin separates us from God and we would stay that way, but because God loved, he gave his son so that we could have a relationship with him. Jesus gave up his life on the cross to pay for our sin. He came to make a way for you to be in God's family.



Parents, ask Your Child:

1. What did God give us?
Why?
2. What did Jesus do for us?

CONTINUED



DAY 4 CONTINUED

[What we need to **do...**]



WE BELIEVE

God said you could accept his gift by believing. Believing simply means to trust. Think of a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight on it. You trust that it will hold you up. That's what it's like to believe in, or to trust in, this gift. To accept the gift that God gave you, you believe that God sent Jesus to die for you so that you can have a relationship with him forever.

Parents, ask Your Child:

1. How do you accept Jesus, God's gift?
2. What does it mean to trust in something?

WE RECEIVE

John 3:16 tells us that we receive eternal life. That means we get to spend forever and ever with God in heaven—a perfect place! And once you receive this gift, it can never be taken away. There is nothing you can do to lose your place in God's family.



Parents, ask Your Child:

1. What do you receive?
2. What does it mean to receive eternal life?

The A-B-C Prayer

If your child is ready to put their trust in Christ, you can use the following prayer to lead them. Allow them to speak for themselves. If your child has already prayed a prayer like this, talk together about their readiness to be baptized.

Dear God,

A - I admit that I am a sinner. I have chosen to do things my way instead of following your way. I am sorry. Please forgive me.

B - I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He has the power to forgive my sins.

C - I choose to follow Jesus today and in the days to come. I trust Him with my life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Note to parents on the next page →

DAY 4 CONTINUED

JUST FOR PARENTS

- We are not saved by praying a prayer .
- We are saved by putting our faith in Christ as our Savior.
- Prayer is simply a way of expressing our trust in Christ for all He has done on our behalf.
- Baptism is a public way to show that you belong to Jesus.
 - Our next baptism will take place on **November 9th**.
 - If your child is interested in baptism, please e-mail gracekids@discovergrace.com

Faith

Faith is knowing Jesus, loving Jesus, and following Jesus.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
By affirming this, you are stating that salvation is in Christ alone through faith alone and are claiming to trust in Jesus for your salvation.

Have you decided to follow Jesus all the days of your life?

Put into your own words how you know that you are saved. When did it happen? How did it happen? How are you different because it happened? What Bible verse helps you know that you are saved?

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a beautiful picture that displays the saving work that Jesus has done on our behalf through His death and resurrection.

It is a portrait of our redemption and tells the story of God's perfect plan to rescue His people from sin and death through Jesus.

Baptism doesn't save us; our faith in Jesus saves us! It is simply a sign or a symbol that represents what Jesus has already done in our hearts on our behalf.

It is our way to declare to the world that we have placed our trust in Jesus and will follow Him all the days of our lives.

■ FOR EXAMPLE:

- Baptism is kind of like a wedding ring. When a man and
- woman enter into the covenant of marriage and make a
- commitment to love each other for all the days of their
- lives, they exchange vows and wedding rings as a symbol of
- their marriage. There is no power in the ring itself...it is
- simply of a symbol of the commitment that was already
- made. A person does not stop being married if they take
- their ring off, nor does a person magically become married
- by putting a ring on. In the same way, baptism is an
- outward sign of the work Jesus has already done in our
- lives. **We are saved by Jesus** the moment we place our
- faith in Him and baptism is our way of sharing our
- commitment to Jesus, with the world!

DAY 6
CONTINUED

What is Baptism?

The term *baptize* means “to dip under water”, “to submerge”, or “to immerse”. In baptism, a believer in Christ is dipped completely under water, only for a moment, then brought back up again. As this person stands in the water before being baptized, they are representing their life before trusting Jesus. They were separated from God. When the believer is dipped completely underneath the water, this represents the fact that they died to sin when they became a believer; they were united with Jesus in His death on our behalf and **have forever turned away from sin to follow Jesus**. Finally, when the believer comes up out of the water and is completely wet, this represents the new life they have because of Jesus. They have been washed clean from sin – not because their bodies are wet but because they have been forgiven by God because of Jesus’ death in their place.

PUT INTO YOUR OWN WORDS WHY YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GOD? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU? WHAT BIBLE VERSE HELPS YOU KNOW THAT BAPTISM IS PART OF GOD’S PLAN FOR YOU?

DAY
1

Why is Baptism Important?

Baptism was ordained by Jesus after His death and resurrection. In Matthew 28:18—20, we read that Jesus said to His disciples,

“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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus commanded His followers to be baptized after placing their faith in Him, to display the saving work He had accomplished for them through His death and resurrection. If it is important to Jesus and has been commanded by Him, it should be important to us. We should long to do what pleases Him, and thus we are baptized out of our love and obedience to Jesus. Baptism is important because Jesus said it was important.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS:

Parents, here are a few questions to think through as you talk about baptism with your child:

1. Does your child truly grasp the weight of their sin?
2. Does he/she understand Jesus' work to clear them of that sin?
3. 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?
4. 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?

DAY 8

READ JOHN 14:1-3

WHAT DO YOU THINK HEAVEN LOOKS LIKE?
DRAW A PICTURE OF HOW YOU IMAGINE IT. NO
MATTER HOW GREAT AN ARTIST YOU ARE, OR HOW
VIVID YOUR IMAGINATION, IT CAN'T COME CLOSE
TO WHAT HEAVEN LOOKS LIKE!



God loved us so much that He gave us Jesus to die for our sins, and when we believe that, we can receive eternal life. That means we can live in heaven with God forever! If you are ready to follow Jesus, now is a great time to talk to a parent or another adult who also believes in Jesus. Tell them what you've learned about Jesus, and that you are ready to follow Him with your whole life and into heaven one day! If you have already made that decision, take some time to thank God for His amazing gift.

KNOW that God wants you to live with Him forever.

Our Prayer for you

Did you know that you are a part of God's family?

Well you are! And being a part of God's family means that you have a family at church, in graceKIDS!

We are so proud of you and your decision to follow Jesus with your whole heart for your whole life! Know that we love you and are praying for you as you continue to grow and love God more and more every day.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for this precious child of yours as they prepare to take their next step toward Christ through baptism. We pray that You would capture their heart and transform their lives for the sake of Your glory. May You protect them from evil and keep them from the lies and deceit of this world. May they continue to grow in their love and knowledge of You throughout this life, desiring Your glory above all else. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would fall upon them, shaping and growing them into the man or woman you created them to be. To Your name be the praise and glory forever and ever!

Amen!

JOURNAL

This is a place for you to journal, write down any thoughts you might have or anything you might want to say to God.

With Love From...

Parents, this is a place for you to write a special note to your child to encourage them during this exciting time!