



What is Baptism?

AN EIGHT-DAY JOURNAL STUDY
FOR YOUR FAMILY ON THE
MEANING OF BAPTISM

A letter to parents

This Baptism Journal is for you, too! It's a perfect tool to help you start a discussion with your student about following Jesus as their personal Savior and getting baptized.

Your student may have many questions. Be ready to spend some time talking through this journey with him or her. We have included some talking points to help you start conversations with your student.

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

Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your student, and partner with the Holy Spirit in praying for your student. Remember, your goal is to assist in understanding so your student will be able to make the decision on his or her own.

In Gracestudents, we always want to partner with you as you lead your student towards Christ, so we've also included a spot for you to write a note to your student. Take the time to encourage him or her, and tell them how proud you are of the decision they made to follow Jesus.

If your student does make the decision to get baptized, we would like to schedule a personal appointment with them before baptism. Please email familyministry@discovergrace.com, and we'll get it on the calendar!



, The Gracestudents Team

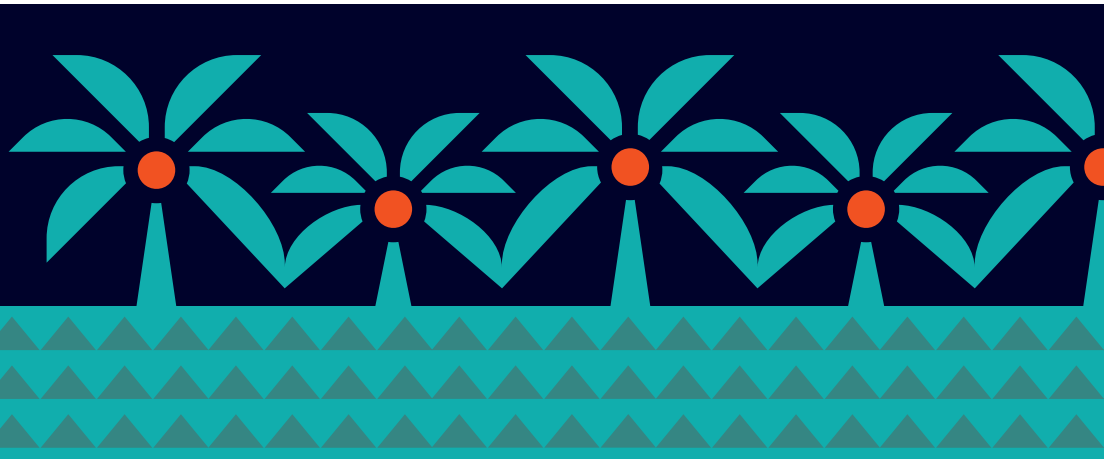
Hey Students! A letter for you!


Congratulations! We are so excited for you as you think about taking your next step towards Christ through baptism!

When you choose to be baptized, it is your way of showing and telling the world that you believe in Jesus and want to follow Him for the rest of your life.

Baptism tells the amazing story of how Jesus rescued us from sin through His death and resurrection, and how we belong to Him forever by placing our faith in Him. Baptism doesn't save us – only Jesus can do that – but it does display a beautiful picture of how Jesus has rescued us.

Jesus came to this world, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and then conquered death and rose from the grave!



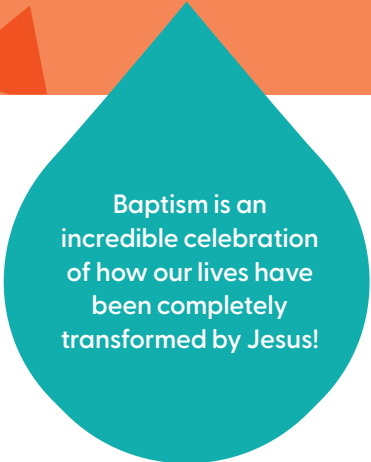


When we are baptized, we are saying that, as we go down into the water, we want to die to our old way of life, and we want Jesus to wash away our sin. And as we are lifted up out of the water, we are showing the world that we want to live a new life of following Jesus.

Baptism is an incredible celebration of how our lives have been completely transformed by Jesus!

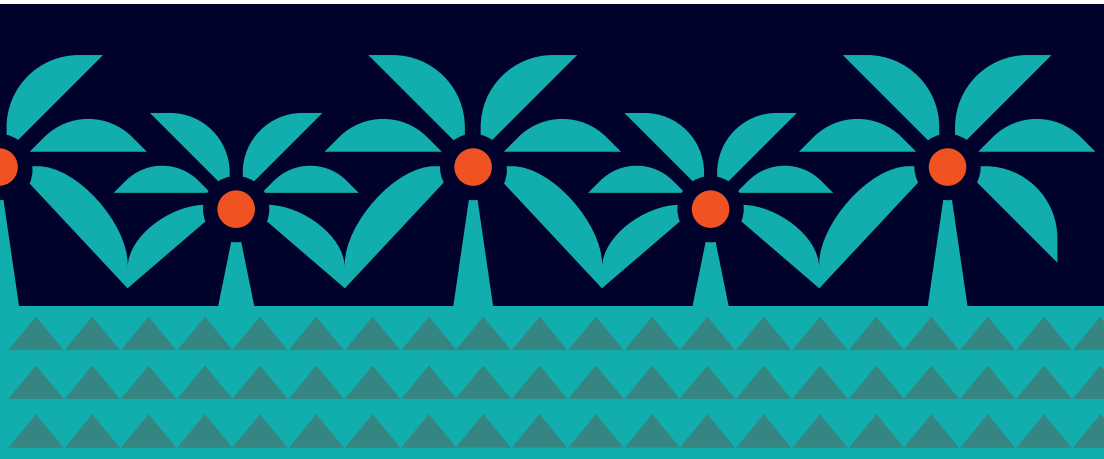
The purpose of this journal is to help walk you through the gospel and help prepare you for baptism. Take the time to walk through this book with your parents and talk about the questions you find along your way. Baptism is an incredible symbol and celebration of how our lives have been completely transformed by Jesus!

Think about all that Jesus has done for you, and pray that He will guide you and give you understanding as you seek to know and love Him more and more.



**Baptism is an
incredible celebration
of how our lives have
been completely
transformed by Jesus!**

 , The Gracestudents Team



Day 1



What do you already know?

Let's find out!

Who is Jesus? What makes Him unique or different from everyone else?

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

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

What does the death of Jesus mean for our sin and salvation?

What must a person do to be saved?

Why is it good news that sins can be forgiven?

Day 2



Who is Jesus?

Some people don't believe Jesus is who He said He was.

Look it up!
John 14:6

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. (Not all of them are bad things! Some of them are just not enough to describe Jesus like He described Himself!) Now, **circle** the words that Jesus used to talk about Himself.

Thankfully, Jesus was way more than a prophet, way more than a good teacher, and He wasn't a liar or 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's
done for you.

Which words describe Jesus?

A Good Teacher

Truth

Prophet

Life

Savior

Liar

Light of the World

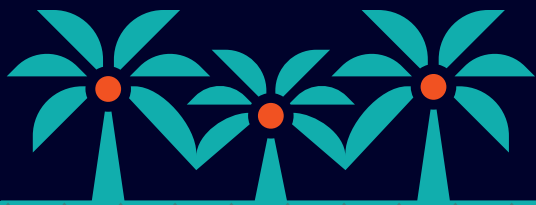
Crazy

The Way

Son Of God

Answer Key
Circle TRUTH, LIFE, SAVIOR, LIGHT OF THE
WORLD, THE WAY, SON OF GOD
Cross out A GOOD TEACHER, PROPHET,
LIAR, CRAZY

Day 3



What's a "sin problem"?

Let's find out!

Sin is disobeying God. When we sin, we turn from God and His ways. We do things our way instead of God's way. Sin always hurts us and leads to pain, brokenness, and death (Romans 6:23). Because God is perfect, sin separates us from God, and it breaks our perfect friendship with Him. Sin is deceptive and tricky. It makes us forget the promises of our God and believe lies instead.

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. Jesus took our sin upon Himself and died on the cross for our sin in our place. He took the punishment for our sin.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can be forgiven of sin and a perfect friendship with God again.



Take Action

Think about your sin – how it hurts God and hurts you. Confess, or tell God all of the wrong things you have done. Tell God you have done things your way instead of God's way. Remember how Jesus came to rescue you from your sin, and how He died on the cross to take the punishment 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?

Here's what you need to know.

Today is a great day to do this devotional with a parent!

God Loved

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.



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

God Gave

God gave you the most important, valuable, and perfect thing He had. He gave His Son Jesus 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.

Questions for Parents to ask Students

1. How do you know God loves you?
2. What is sin?
3. Have you ever sinned?
4. What separates you from God?
5. What did God give us? Why?
6. What did Jesus do for us?

Turn for more of Day 4



Here's what you 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. And you put your faith and trust in Him!



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.

Questions for Parents to ask Kids

1. How do you accept Jesus, God's gift?
2. What does it mean to trust in something?
3. What do you receive from God when you trust Him?
4. What does it mean to receive eternal life?



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

Admit, Believe, Choose

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

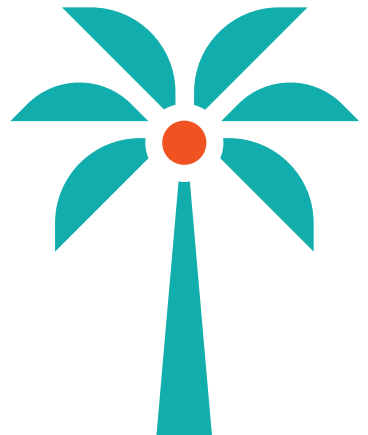
I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He has the power to forgive my sins.

C

I choose to follow Jesus today and in the days to come. I trust Him with my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes for Parents

- ◆ We are not saved by praying a prayer.
- ◆ We are saved by putting our faith in Jesus 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.



Day 5



What is faith?

Let's find out!

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

1

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

By saying "yes," you are stating that salvation only comes by faith in Jesus, and you are claiming to trust in Jesus for your salvation.

2

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?

3

What Bible verse helps you know that you are saved?

Day 6



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.



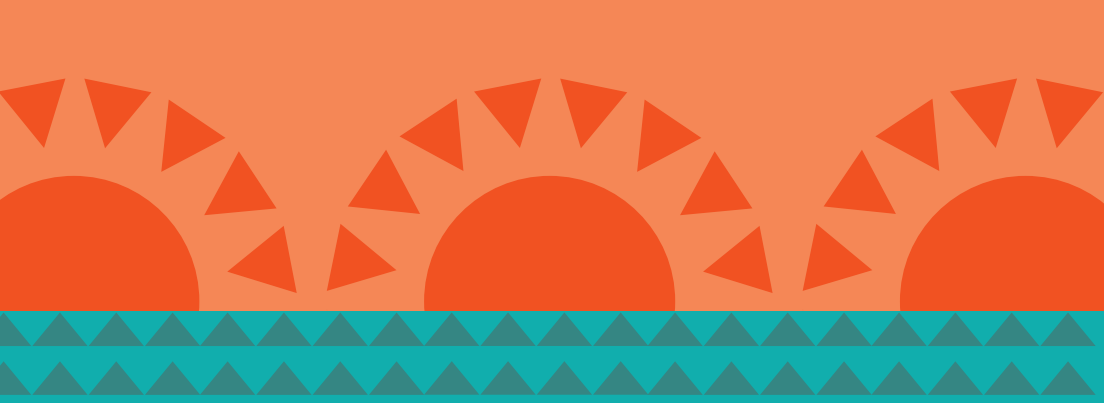
Baptism doesn't save us; our faith in Jesus saves us! It is simply a sign or a symbol that represents what Jesus has already done in our hearts on our behalf. It is our way to declare to the world that we have placed our trust in Jesus and will follow Him all the days of our lives.

Think of it like this

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 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!

Turn for more of Day 6





More about 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; just like Jesus died for us, and that we 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.

Baptize means “to dip under water.”

Baptism represents the new life you have because of Jesus.



Put into your own words why you want to be baptized. What does it mean to God? What does it mean to you? What verse helps you know that baptism is part of God’s plan for you?

Day 7



Why is baptism important?

Baptism was put in place as a next step by Jesus after His death and resurrection. In Matthew 28:18–20, we read that Jesus said to His disciples...

Let's find out!

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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 show that they believe in Him and His death and resurrection. If it is important to Jesus and has been commanded by Him, it should be important to us. We should want to do what pleases Him, and therefore we are baptized out of our love and obedience to Jesus. **Baptism is important because Jesus said it was important.**

Questions for Parents to ask Students

1. Does your student truly understand the weight of their sin?
2. Does he/she understand Jesus' work to clear them of that sin?
3. Have you prayerfully considered your student's faith, and do you feel like baptism is the next step of their faith? Or should they wait?
4. Are you convinced your student is making this decision because of their own faith, not because of pressure they feel from you or the church?

Day 8



What do you think Heaven is like?

Look it up!
John 14:1-3

List all the words that come to mind in the box below.

Take Action

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

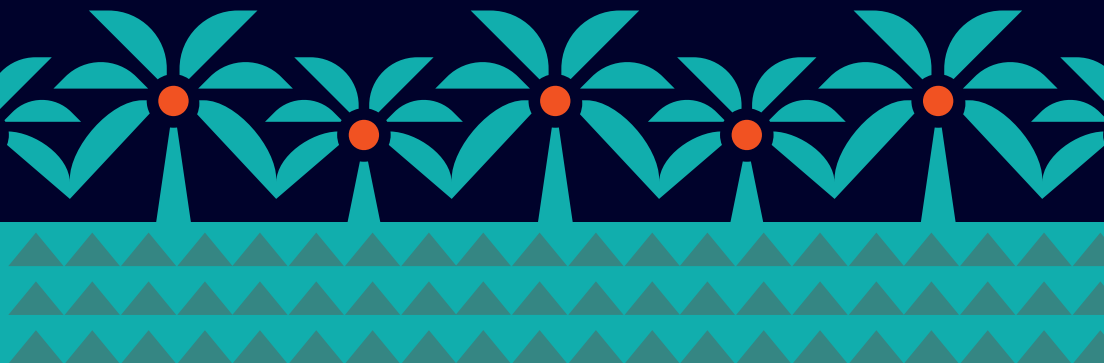


Did you know that you are a part of God's family? Well you are! And being a part of God's family means that you have a family at church, in Gracestudents!

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 deeply loved 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 be in 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.



Your Journal

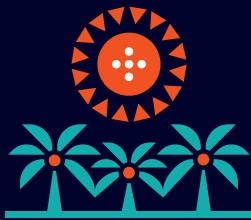
This is a place just for you to draw or write down any thoughts you might have or anything you might want to say to God. Go for it!

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Your Journal



Familyministry

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