

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

STUDENT BAPTISM

STUDENT WORKBOOK (For students in grades 6 - 12)



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Hey,

We're excited that you're thinking about baptism! It was something that was important to Jesus, so we're happy that it's important to you as well.

This Workbook

This workbook is designed to help you understand and explore what baptism is and why we practice it at New Hope. It should also help you to understand your faith, explain the Gospel story, and explore your motivations for taking this step. We're hoping you'll be able to do two things after going through this workbook...

1. Understand and be able to explain the Gospel story
2. Determine if you're ready to take the step of baptism

If you complete this workbook and feel you're ready to be baptized, we'd love to sit down with you and go over the details. Looking forward to that meeting!

- New Hope Student Ministry Staff

The “Gospel”

Let's start at the beginning. There are lots of definitions for the “Gospel.” We think it's important that you know what the Gospel is, what it does, and how it transforms us and gives us life. At New Hope, we use a simple definition...

The Gospel is...

**“The Good News story,
that through Jesus,
God has rescued the world.”**

Whether you've been a church kid your whole life, or you've just started exploring Christian faith, the included booklet titled **“Two Ways to Live”** is a great recap of the Gospel story. It explains the good news and the bad news, who Jesus is, and how God's plan to rescue the world centers on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. So take a few minutes to read through the booklet and answer the following questions...

“Two ways to live”: *(the 6 questions line up with the 6 “chapters” in the booklet)*

1. What roles does God play and what roles do humans play in the world?

God:

Humans:

2. How does this chapter describe what sin is?
3. How does God judge our rebellion?
4. According to this chapter, what kind of a person was Jesus? What did He do to rescue us?
5. What did Jesus' death on the cross accomplish? How can we be sure that Jesus will give us eternal life when He returns again?

6. Describe the two different ways to live...

Our way:

God's new way:

What 3 steps does the book say is the way to following Jesus?

1. Talk to _____.
 2. _____ to Jesus.
 3. Keep _____.
-

Baptism

At New Hope, we practice "believers baptism." It means we think that baptism is a step of obedience designed to be taken AFTER you have placed your faith in Jesus.

Important Bible verses

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to understand the basics about baptism. Here are some passages from the Bible that most clearly speak on the topic.

Jesus told us to baptize his disciples

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

This passage in Matthew 28 is called "The Great Commission" - it's kind of like Jesus' marching orders for all Christians to live a life on purpose (on **Mission**). We define mission as; "**Reaching out & Inviting In**" to remind us that Jesus invites his followers to live a life centered on serving and loving other people.

Baptism is a symbol of what Jesus' death & resurrection have done for us

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." – Romans 6:2-4 (ESV)

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment of faith (like a wedding ring)

"But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized." - Acts 8:12-13 (NLT)

Baptism comes right after we place our faith in Jesus

*"Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church **that day**—about 3,000 in all."*
– Acts 2:41 (NLT)

What is baptism?

The word “baptism” means “to put in the water” or “to immerse.” In Jesus’ time, people were baptized after they had placed their faith in Him as a symbol of their new life as a follower of Jesus.

“That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, it was like leaving the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, it was like entering a new country called grace—a new life in a new land! That’s what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.” - Romans 6:3-5 (MSG)

According to this verse, Baptism is a retelling of two stories...

1. **The story of Jesus.** When you get baptized, you’re reenacting the story of the Gospel - Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for you so that your sins would be paid for and you could have a relationship with God.

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2. **Your story.** Baptism is also reenacting your story. It illustrates your new life as a follower of Jesus. The old you (who was rebellious and separated from God) goes under the water, and the new you (made alive through Jesus) comes out of the water!

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Baptism is public

When we read about the baptisms that happened in the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament, we see that they were done publicly, often in front of crowds of people. Baptism was a public demonstration of someone’s faith in Jesus and belief in the Gospel message.

Baptism is normal

Throughout the New Testament, we see that when people believe the Gospel, they also repent of their sins and are baptized - often the very same day! Their stories demonstrate that it should be the normal practice for Christians to be baptized after they place their faith in Jesus. One time, Peter told a large crowd of people of how Jesus came to rescue them; here’s how they reacted to the Gospel message...

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...’ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” - Acts 2:37-41 (ESV)

There’s another great story about how an Ethiopian guy heard the story of the Gospel, saw a small pond, and pulled his horse over so he could get baptized on the spot! You can read it in Acts 8:26-40.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus.

"One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River."
- Mark 1:9 (NLT)

2. Because Jesus commands it.

Read the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). *See page 3 for this scripture.*

The Great Commission is Jesus' big assignment for us - according to this verse...

- What do you think a "disciple" is?

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus promises to always be with you if you become a Christian? (Matthew 28:20)

- So the question is... are you a disciple? Do you think you are? How come?

3. It demonstrates that I really am a Christian.

"And we can be sure that we know him if we obey His commands." - 1 John 2:3 (NLT)

Taking the step of obedience through baptism reassures us that God really has saved us from our sin and rescued us! The bible teaches us that on our own, we wouldn't pursue God (Rom 3:10-12). So if you have any desire to follow Jesus and live in his ways, it means that God has already started working in your heart!

4. It connects me to a faith community.

God designed your faith to be lived out in community - we define community as **"A place you belong & people who point you to Jesus."** Baptism connects you to the community of Jesus followers at New Hope. We're here to celebrate this step with you and help point you to Jesus as we follow him together.

Frequently asked baptism questions...

Does a person have to be baptized to be saved?

Answer: Nope. Baptism is a step of obedience, not a requirement for salvation. Placing your faith in Jesus alone is what saves us (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What if I was baptized when I was a baby?

Answer: We would view that as a “dedication,” not “believer’s baptism.” They are different. We would invite you, if you’ve placed your faith in Jesus, to be baptized as a sign of your faith now that you’re old enough to make that decision on your own.

Who should be baptized?

Answer: Everyone who puts their faith in Jesus! (Romans 10:9-10).

What if I was baptized years ago, but then stopped going to church?

Should I be re- baptized?

Answer: Not usually. We see baptism as a one time event. You’ll need to repent and believe in the gospel regularly (probably daily!) for the rest of your life, but you don’t need to be re-baptized.

**If you were baptized as a child, but now feel like you want to “make faith your own”, we encourage you to verbalize your re-commitment to Jesus by sharing your story with your small group or in some other context. But usually, we don’t think you need to get baptized again. Come talk to us if you have questions.*

Your Story...

Why do you want to be baptized?

What is the Gospel? (You can look in this workbook for the definition!)

If someone wanted to know how to become a Christian, what would you tell them? What bible verses might you use? (look in this packet!)

When did you become a Christian? Describe that experience.

Why are you choosing to love and follow Jesus for the rest of your life?

What are some things you've been doing to try and grow closer to God?

Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from your sin? Yes No

Do you want to follow Jesus for the rest of your life? Yes No

Am I ready?

We want you to be sure of your salvation before you take the step of baptism. If you read the scriptures and answered the questions in this packet and feel like you have a good understanding of the Gospel, your sin, and God's rescuing work to save you through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - and you feel that you have placed your faith in Jesus - Great! Let's talk about following through with baptism!

If you're not sure, or still have doubts or questions about what the gospel is, how it works, and whether or not you've actually placed your faith in Jesus, that's ok! Let's talk! We'd love to answer your questions and help walk with you through the process.

Here's a few questions to consider as you think about taking the step of baptism...

- Do you truly grasp the weight of your sin? That you were born spiritually dead with no desire to follow God's ways on your own? That you naturally rebel against God (sin) and are found guilty before him?
- Do you understand Jesus' work on the cross to pay for your sins and rescue you so that God could restore his relationship with you?
- Are you making this decision because you feel it's the next step in your faith? Or do you feel like you want to get baptized because a friend, family member, or someone else told you to?

Next Steps

Thanks for taking the time to read through this packet - we know it's a lot of work! If you've completed this packet and feel ready to get baptized, here's the next steps!

Contact Rich to set up a baptism meeting with him or someone on the Church Staff. One of us will meet with you and listen to your story of coming to faith in Jesus. We'll answer any questions you have and set up a date for you to be baptized!

rich@newhopeon395.com // 541-567-8441

If you're choosing to wait to be baptized, don't worry! Continue to seek answers and grow in your faith until you think you're ready to make this decision. We're here to help you in whatever ways we can.