

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

KIDS BAPTISM

PARENT-CHILD WORKBOOK (For kids through 5th grade)



KIDS BAPTISM

PARENT-CHILD WORKBOOK (For kids through 5th grade)



Dear Parents,

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

This Workbook

We believe that you, as a parent, are the primary spiritual leader in your home. So we want to give you the opportunity to teach about the meaning and importance of baptism. This workbook and the companion booklet called "The Gospel God's Plan for Me" is meant to be done with your child. The material is fairly short but should give you direction so you can do 2 things with confidence...

1. Teach your child about the Gospel story and baptism
2. Determine if they're ready or if they should wait a bit longer to be baptized

If you complete this workbook with your child and feel they'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 Family Ministry Staff

Parent Prep/ Key Scriptures

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to teach your kids spiritual things! Here are the basics about baptism. *(Look over these before you sit down with your child).*

Jesus told us to baptize his disciples (followers)

"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)

Baptism is a symbol of entering into the death/resurrection of Jesus

"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 "conversion" (new faith)

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

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. Faith in Jesus alone 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 a "believer's baptism." They are different. We would invite you, if you've placed your faith in Christ, to be baptized as a sign of your faith.

Who should be baptized?

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

What if I was baptized years ago, but fell away? Should I be re-baptized?

Answer: Not usually. When you place your faith in Jesus, you are saved! Nothing can take that away (see Romans 8:35-39). We see baptism as a one time event. You'll need to repent and believe in the gospel regularly for the rest of your life, but you'll never need to be re-baptized.

Parent-child discussion questions

Parents - this is for you to sit down and have a discussion with your child. We suggest you don't just get their answer, but you tell them yours too. Take your time and do this together.

- What is the Bible? What do you know about it?
- What's your favorite story in the Bible?
- What happened with Adam & Eve? What did they do? *Disobeyed God*
- What's the word for things that make God angry or sad? *Sin*
- Has everyone sinned? What about really nice people? *Rom 3:23 - "For ALL have sinned..."*
- Can you remember any sins you've done?
- What does sin do to our relationship with God? *It separates us.*
- What did God do to rescue us and forgive us of sin? *He came to earth & died on the cross for us*
- How do we get forgiveness from God? Do we just have to be really good to make God happy?
- When we go to church on Sunday, we sing... why?
- What questions do you have about the Bible? What is confusing to you?
- What is the "Gospel"? (*We have a short definition that we like to use... **The Gospel is... "The Good News Story, that through Jesus, God has rescued the world."** The booklet "The Gospel God's Plan for Me" is a more thorough explanation of the gospel story.*)

What is baptism? - Parents, this is meant to help you explain what baptism is.

The word "baptism" means "to put in the water." In Jesus' time, people were baptized after they had placed their faith in Him as a symbol of their new life.

"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 kind of like retelling 2 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)

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 2 for this scripture.*

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

- What do you think a "disciple" is? (*If you don't know, look it up!*)
- And who is the "them" in that verse? Who gets baptized?
- So the question is, are you a disciple? Do you think you are? How do you know?

3. It demonstrates that I really am a Christian.

"Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized." Acts 18:8 (NLT)

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

Child Questionnaire: Kids, this is for you... Try it without any help!

<p>1. Baptism is...</p> <p>a) something all kids do b) for all kids whose parents go to church c) for kids & adults who decide to follow Jesus d) for kids who are really nice</p>	<p>4. I'm ready to get baptized if...</p> <p>a) I believe that Jesus died & came back to life b) I trust Jesus has washed away my sins c) I want everyone to know that I am a Christian d) All of the above</p>
<p>2. Jesus said that people should get baptized...</p> <p>a) So God will love you more b) Because you can't go to heaven if you don't c) Even if you're unsure about it d) To show others that you want to follow Him forever</p>	<p>5. Baptism is when you...</p> <p>a) Go to church and pray to God with others b) Get put under water because you love Jesus c) Sing in a kid's choir d) Turn 9 years old</p>
<p>3. The Gospel is...</p> <p>a) A pretend story about Jesus b) The name of one of the disciples c) The Good News Story, that through Jesus, God has rescued the world. d) The story of Noah & the ark</p>	<p>6. What does it mean to be "saved" by Jesus?</p> <p>a) You don't do bad things anymore b) You make God happy by going to church c) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith, not because of what you do d) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith and because you started doing more good things</p>

Child testimony - kids, write your answers with no help at first...

Do you want to be baptized? Yes No

If yes, why do you want to be baptized?

What does it mean to be a Christian?

When did you become a Christian?

Why did you say yes to Jesus? Why did you say yes to following Him and loving Him?

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

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

Parent Assessment

Parents, we want to caution you here. It's very tempting to just assume your child is ready to be baptized. We'll ultimately leave it to your discretion, but here are a few things to consider before you say yes; (you don't have to write your answers).

- Does your child truly grasp the weight of their sin? *We think that most kids begin to understand this concept in about 1st or 2nd grade, though there are exceptions...*
- Does he/she understand Jesus' work on the cross to pay for their sins and restore their relationship with God?
- Have you prayerfully considered your child's faith? Do you feel like baptism is the next step for them? Or should they wait?
- Are you convinced your child is making this decision because of their own faith, not because of pressure they feel from you, family members, friends, or the church?

Next Steps

Parents, thanks for taking the time to walk through this very important topic with your child! If you've gone through the material and think they're ready for baptism, we'd love to sit down with you. Contact the church office to set up a Baptism meeting with someone on the Church Staff. One of the staff members will meet with you and your child and will review their understanding of the Gospel story and the meaning of baptism. We'll work out all the details then.

If you have other questions about baptism, please contact one of the people below...

Trista Hindman (Children's Ministry Director): trista@newhopeon395.com

Tim Beal (Executive Pastor): tim@newhopeon395.com

New Hope Church Office: 541.567.8441 office@newhopeon395.com

If you decide your child should wait to be baptized, don't fret! Continue to pray for your child's faith and understanding of the gospel. Keep fostering spiritual conversations in your home until your child is ready to make this decision.

**"The Gospel; God's Plan for me" is a short gospel presentation booklet - we have print versions @ church but you can also download a pdf form at*

<http://www.loopkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Gospel-Explanation.pdf>