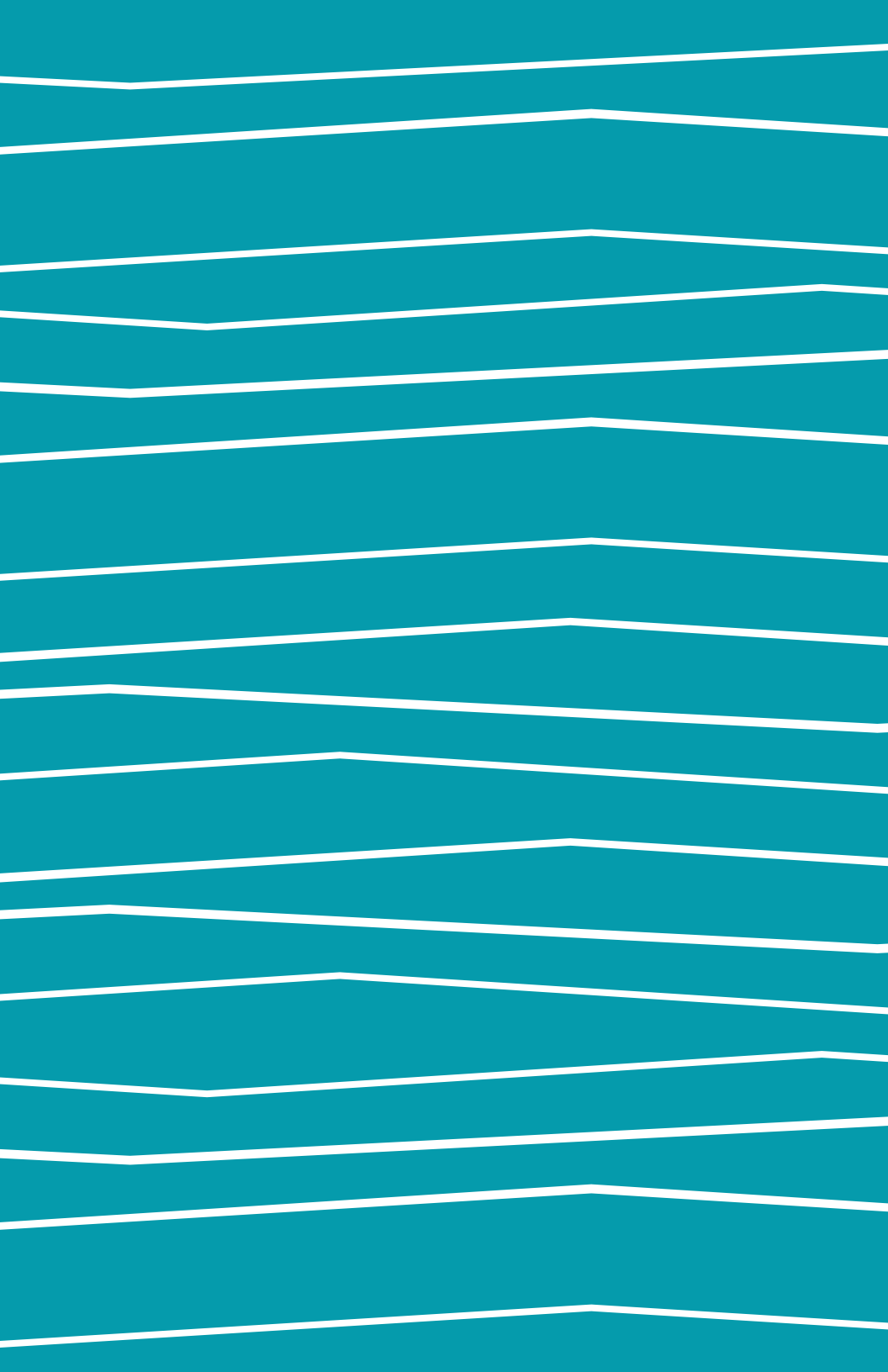


A Guide to Baptism For Kids

 *Family* Ministry
First Church of Christ





A Note for Parents

Parents! We are so excited that your child is interested in being baptized! This booklet is designed to be a helpful resource for you and your child to work through together. We believe that baptism is an important and special moment in the life of the believer, and we want our children to understand what baptism really means.

This booklet is structured around important questions. As you work through the booklet, we highly recommend that you ask your child to answer each question before reading the answers to them. By asking the questions directly to your child, they will be engaged and think critically about the theology surrounding baptism. We don't want children to simply hear the answers to the questions, we want them to truly understand.

At the back of the booklet, there is a section with fill in the blanks. We encourage you to have your child fill in these blanks after working through the whole booklet (it is okay to go back and reread the answers!). Our hope is that this process will help confirm and solidify the child's understanding about the importance of baptism.



What is baptism?

Baptism is a special moment for the follower of Jesus. When someone is baptized, they are brought under the water and lifted out of it to imitate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Why would someone decide to be baptized?

Choosing to be baptized is an act of obedience to follow Jesus' command. Jesus called his disciples to go out into the whole world declaring His good news! Whenever people received the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, they were to be baptized as their first step to follow Him.

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

– Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB 2020)

Why did Jesus die and rise from the grave?

That's a big question! The short answer is: Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sin, and He rose from the grave to declare victory over sin and death. That may sound a bit confusing, so let's take a step back and start at the beginning of the story of the Bible.

Who is God?

God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything! God existed before the world began, and even before time began! God made everything in the world – trees, mountains, kangaroos, bugs, and people like you and me.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

– Genesis 1:1 (NASB 2020)

Is God good?

Yes! God is so, so, so very good! He is the ultimate good! Because God is so good, everything He made was good too.

**⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate;
Slow to anger and great in mercy.**

**⁹ The Lord is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.**

**¹⁰ All Your works will give thanks to You, Lord,
And Your godly ones will bless You.**

– Psalm 145:8-10 (NASB 2020)

³¹ And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

– Genesis 1:31 (NASB 2020)

Why isn't everything good now?

Even though God is good, we don't always follow God's way. That's what sin is – rejecting God's perfect way. Whenever we don't follow God's goodness, we end up sinning. The first human beings, Adam and Eve, turned away from God and tried to go their own way. Because sin is the opposite of God's goodness, it causes all kinds of hurt and destruction. Our sin disconnects us from God, and that's a big problem because He is the giver of life!

⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

– Genesis 3:9-13 (NASB 2020)

What causes death?

Death is the result and consequence for sin. Because our sin has separated us from the God who gives us life, we will face death. Sin is the reason why brokenness, sadness, hurt, and death exist in this world.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– Romans 6:23 (NASB 2020)

Has everybody sinned?

Yes, all human beings have sinned against God and against each other. We have all turned away from God's perfect way, and we have all hurt each other. Everyone has sinned except one person – that's Jesus!

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

– Romans 3:23 (NASB 2020)

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God in the flesh. He is fully God and fully human. All at the same time! That's confusing, right? It's okay to be confused. God is greater than we can even understand! The important thing to know is that Jesus is fully God and fully human. That means He is perfectly good, and He wants to remove our sin and bring us back to God.

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– Philippians 2:5-11 (NASB 2020)

How can Jesus remove our sin?

Jesus's death functioned as a sacrifice for our sin. Jesus was perfect and had no sin whatsoever. He was like a clean sponge which had no dirt. Jesus in all His cleanliness took all of our sin like a sponge absorbing dirt. When He died, Jesus took our sin to the grave. And when Jesus rose from the dead, He left our sin there!

**¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our guilty deeds.**

**¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.**

**¹² As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us.**

**¹³ Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.**

— Psalm 103:10-13 (NASB 2020)

Will we rise from the dead like Jesus?

Yes! Anyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus will rise from the dead just as Jesus did. Jesus took the sin of all the believers, past, present, and future, when He died on the cross. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, all who follow Him will rise from the dead and be given eternal life.

¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

— Romans 8:10-11 (NASB 2020)

How does baptism imitate Jesus' death & resurrection?

When someone is baptized, they are lowered into the water like a dead body is lowered into the grave. That's a sad picture, but remember, Jesus did not stay in the grave! The person being baptized is lifted up out of the water victoriously, just as Jesus defeated death and left our sin in the grave. Just as a shower or bath may clean the dirt off of your body, coming up out of the water resembles how Jesus has made you clean by removing all of your sin.

**Your baptism will be a sign
that you can remember throughout
your whole life that Jesus has
washed you clean. Jesus has taken
your sin, left it in the grave, and is
leading you into eternal life!**





RAISED **TO NEW LIFE**



Fill in the Blanks!

Baptism is when someone is brought under the water and lifted out of it to imitate Jesus' _____.

Why should someone decide to be baptized? Because they want to follow _____.

Who is God? God is the _____ and _____ of everything!

Is God good? _____ !

Why isn't everything good now? Our sin _____ us from God.

What causes death? _____.

Has everybody sinned? Yes, everybody but _____.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is _____ in the _____.

How can Jesus remove our sin? Jesus' death was a _____ for our _____.

Will we rise from the dead? Yes! Anyone who puts their _____ in _____ will be saved.

