

BAPTISM CONVERSATION GUIDE

Here are four questions to help you know if your child is ready to be baptized.

QUESTION #1: WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Before we can do anything else, we need to make sure they have a clear understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. We're not looking for a seminary-level answer. We just want to make sure we're all on the same page before jumping right in.

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR:

They understand what it means to follow Jesus.

QUESTION #2: HAVE YOU EVER MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS?

We can't assume that because we are having this conversation that they have chosen to follow Jesus. Ask them about it and find out. This may be an opportunity to walk them through what it means to follow Jesus and give them a chance to decide for themselves if that's something they want to do.

The most important thing you'll want to look for is how they talk about their faith. If they have a hard time articulating their faith and talking about how their relationship with Jesus affects the way they live their life, then they may not be ready to be baptized. We want them to have a real relationship with Jesus that changes the way they think, act and treat others. It is only when they have a real and growing relationship with Jesus that they'll be ready to be baptized.

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR:

They have a personal relationship with Jesus and can describe how faith plays a role in their life.

QUESTION #3: WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?

We want to make sure they know that baptism is not what's going to get them into Heaven. While this isn't meant to be a theology test, we want kids to fully understand what baptism is and what it isn't. The big idea here is that baptism is simply a way that we show on the outside what God has already done on the inside. We do it because Jesus was baptized (Matt. 3:13-17) and He told us to do the same (Matt. 28:19).

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR:

They understand that baptism is really about showing those around us that we've chosen to follow Jesus and it's not just something we do to get into Heaven.

QUESTION #4: WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET BAPTIZED?

We want to make sure they aren't feeling pressured to do it. Sometimes kids sign up for baptism because their friends did it or a parent/leader told them they should do it. Neither of those are bad things but, at the end of the day, it is a choice that they need to make for themselves.

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR:

Choosing to be baptized is their own decision, not something they feel pressured to do.

