

## HOW TO BAPTIZE SOMEONE

Do you know someone who is ready to take his/her next step in following Jesus through baptism?

**Who should be water baptized?** A person is ready for baptism, when he/she is mature enough to be 1) sorry for their sin, 2) trust Jesus as their Savior, and 3) ready to submit to Jesus as their Lord (boss). We are thoughtful about baptizing young children, because many do not understand their need for a Savior. We believe God's grace covers them in their innocence. (Acts 2:37)

**Simply follow these 5 easy steps.**

**Step 1:** Find some water. A person may be baptized anywhere – a river, pool, bathtub, hot tub, lake or the ocean. The Bible does not limit where someone must be baptized because the power of God's forgiveness is in Jesus and not the water.

**Step 2:** Go into the water. If the water source is large enough (like a pool, river, or baptistry), then you may go into the water with the one being baptized. If it is too small (like a bathtub), then just kneel next to the person as he/she sits down into the water.

**Step 3:** Take their confession of faith. Ask, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? And do you trust Jesus as your Savior and commit to obey Jesus as your Lord?"

**Step 4:** What to say. Say, "I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (This is what Jesus taught us to say in Matthew 28:19)

**Step 5:** Lay the person down into the water and back up. Full immersion best represents dying to our old selves and being reborn in Jesus, but don't be alarmed if someone's elbow or toe pops up during the baptism. Jesus does the saving – not the water. Bonus point: Have the person hold his/her nose.

### COMMON QUESTIONS

**Q. 1: What is water baptism?** Baptism means "to immerse, bury or cover up". Therefore, baptism is the act of immersing someone in water to mark their new life in Jesus. In that moment, one's sins are forgiven, they receive God's Holy Spirit, and they are claimed as God's child. (Romans 6:1-5)

**Q. 2: Why water baptism?** A Christian is someone who follows Jesus – thinks like Jesus, talks like Jesus and acts like Jesus. Jesus was baptized so anyone who truly wants to follow him will be baptized like Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17)

**Q. 3: Who should be water baptized?** A person is ready for baptism, when he/she is mature enough to be 1) sorry for their sin, 2) trust Jesus as their Savior, and 3) ready to submit to Jesus as their Lord (boss). We are thoughtful about baptizing young children, because many do not understand their need for a Savior. We believe God's grace covers them in their innocence. (Acts 2:37)

**Q. 4: Who may baptize someone else?** The Bible does not limit baptisms to elders or ministers. Rather, any baptized Christian may baptize someone else.

**Q. 5: Where may someone be baptized?** Anywhere. The power of God's forgiveness is found in Jesus not in special water.

**Q. 6: Can someone be re-baptized?** We all have seasons we feel distant from God. Some of us even deliberately walk away from Him out of hurt or anger. God loves us so much that He will continually pursue us until we come back to Him. When that happens, all God asks of us is confession and repentance. Turn away from the choices that put you before God and ask for His forgiveness. Tell a friend who will encourage you and pray for you. Getting baptized again isn't the answer. You've been saved, you've made your declaration of faith. Now let your actions of obedience tell the story of God's love for you.