



TALKING WITH KIDS

about

BAPTISM

IS YOUR CHILD READY?

We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be baptized. This is usually a good indication that they understand their decision to follow Jesus, and that baptism will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While children under the age of six can absolutely have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older.

If you feel your child is ready to be baptized, then we'd love for you to read through this baptism devotional with them. If you are unsure, or don't feel that your child understands what it means to be baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. Let your child observe baptism and talk to them about what it means. This devotional will introduce questions and spur your child on in their personal friendship with Jesus.

OBEYING JESUS' COMMANDMENT

Matthew 28:19-20

SAY:

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized is because Jesus did and He told us to also. When you became a friend of Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was baptized, so we should be too. Let's read about Jesus' baptism in our Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

ASK: What is the number one reason you should be baptized?

AN OUTWARD PICTURE

Colossians 2:12

SAY:

Baptism is just an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to be your forever friend, there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer (1 Corinthians 12:13). That's why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

ASK: What is baptism a picture of?

A DECISION OF FAITH

Romans 6:4

SAY:

Baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after you have decided to follow Jesus and invited Him to be the leader of your life. But baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive His gift of forgiveness for your sins. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, reborn spirit be in charge of your life. Your baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord.

ASK: When you are baptized, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?

