



BAPTISM

STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE

FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Kids have lots of questions. And it seems that a lot of them are about faith and/or church. This book was created to illustrate to kids in Grade 3 to Grade 6 what it means to have Jesus as their Saviour. It will help YOU as a parent be able to answer some of the questions your child might have about asking Jesus to be their Saviour, about communion, and about baptism. In completing this book your child will begin to understand about sin, what God decided to do about our sin, how we can be in His family forever, and how we are baptized as a way of showing all of our friends and family that we are followers of Jesus.

The next pages are a great resource for you as moms and dads to help your child begin to take the next steps along their spiritual journey. We know that this booklet will not answer all of your child's questions. In fact, we hope it does the complete opposite! We hope that it encourages them to ask more questions as they begin to discover who Jesus is and how they, too, can have a relationship with Him. **This is not intended to merely be handed over to your child to be completed alone.** It is important for you and your child to work through the questions and answers together. As you spend time discerning whether your child is ready for baptism, we would love for you to keep the following things in mind:

Motivation:

Take time to ask your child the "why" questions in regards to baptism.

A few examples of healthy motivation:

- I want everyone to know that I love Jesus.
- I want to join the church in reaching the rest of the world for Jesus.
- I have chosen to follow Jesus and baptism is my first act of obedience.

A few examples of unhealthy motivation:

- Everyone in my family has been baptized.
- Baptism looks like a lot of fun.
- Mom & Dad want me to get baptized.

Understanding:

Knowing the facts about the Gospel is important. We want your child to know the story AND believe in what Jesus has done. This means they understand who and what they are following.

Communication:

One aspect of baptism is declaring our faith in Jesus Christ. Your child should be able to articulate why they have chosen to follow Jesus and should be able to share how someone else can follow him too. 1 Peter 3:15

Timing:

If you evaluate your child through the lens of motivation, understanding and communication it will help you discern when your child should be baptized. We encourage our children to wait until at least age 7 to be baptized. Here are a few reasons why we do this:

- At CrossRoads Church we believe baptism is a personal decision to declare faith, join the church and its mission, and marks the first act of obedience in following Jesus. The more comprehension children have in their decision, the more significant baptism will be to anchor them through the tough youth and young adult years.

- Throughout Scripture the Lord calls his people to remember His great and mighty acts. We want baptism to be a meaningful marker in children's lives that they can look back on and remember what God did!

We acknowledge that other followers of Christ practice infant or young child baptism, prior to the child's profession of faith. We do not expect children who were baptized as infants to be re-baptized. Instead, we would encourage parents to confirm the understanding of their child's infant baptism using some of the same steps we have outlined in this booklet once that child reaches an age of understanding. However, at CrossRoads Church, we do not practice infant baptism for the reasons outlined above.

We believe baptism is a faith marker on a child's faith journey. Marking significant faith events is commanded in scripture. We are to do so in order that we can look back and remember what God has done for us, in us, and through us. For this reason, we have created the following process to help you and your child mark this milestone of faith so that years from now s/he can still resonate with its significance on his/her life.

When you sense that your child is ready to have the conversation around baptism with one of our pastors we ask that you prepare the following pieces to bring to that appointment:

- When someone is baptized they are committing themselves to the church and the church is committing themselves to the individual. This means that we want the church to play a significant role in your child's spiritual journey. Take time with your child to think through who from the church could disciple your child. Bring the name and contact information of that individual to the

appointment (Pastor Jordan will give further details of what is expected).

- Create a list of significant family members and/or friends who you might like to be a part of the baptism service.

Parents:

write an affirmation letter... We think our son or daughter should be baptized because we see... (here are some thoughts)

- What fruit of the spirit do you see in their life? (Galatians 5:22)
- When is a time you saw your child act like Jesus?
- What are you hoping and believing for them?
- Pick a Scripture that you want to encourage them with and speak over their life.
- What gift of the Spirit do you see in their life? Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12, 14 and 1 Peter.

Child:

Write out, film, or voice record your testimony. Answering the following questions:

- What is your name and age? What grade are you in?
- What makes you want to follow Jesus?
- What do you believe about Jesus?
- Tell me about a time when you decided to live Jesus' way?
- How has Jesus helped you?

Talking with your child about the basics of faith in Christ and working through this booklet will help you discern whether or not you should encourage your child to be baptized at this time. This way, if they have questions, you can talk through them right away. If you're unsure of the answers, please feel free to contact our team with questions!

K-6KidsMin@CrossRoadsChurch.ca
403-347-6425 ext. 416

FOR PARENTS & KIDS

This section of the booklet will give you the opportunity to talk with your child about their relationship with Jesus and how Jesus becomes our King.

HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

God loved you before you were even born. He loves you right now. In fact, in the Bible it tells us God loves us so much, that before you were born while you were still being formed, He put you together piece by piece (Psalm 139). God also loves the world so much, that when he created you and me, he did not make us robots that would follow his every command, but he gave us choice. He loves us so much that he gave us the option to choose love or selfishness. You might be familiar with the story of Adam and Eve. Well long story short, instead of choosing love and to obey God, Adam and Eve decided to choose selfishness and do what they wanted. This is when sin entered the world and infected every human ever born. Romans 3:23 puts it this way, *“For all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God”*.

Can you think of some ways where you have chosen selfishness (sin) over love? (Exodus 20 might give you a starting place to think about your selfishness) write out a few...

The big problem with sin, which is a fancy word for stuff we do that is wrong is that it separates us from God. And the punishment for sin is death. That is a tough pill to swallow. Does that mean that every person deserves death? Romans 6:23 says, *“The wages (price) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* This is the good news! That although you and I are selfish and deserve death, God knew that we would need help! This is why the verse John 3:16 is such good news for you and me. *“God so loved the world (you and me) that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish (die), but have eternal life.”*

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for our selfishness. Jesus was put in a grave for three days and everyone thought he was dead. But on the third day, He rose from the dead! By being raised from the dead, Jesus has made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins, for us to be reunited with God, and for us to live with him forever.

Serious? Live Forever?

Yes! This is the good news about Jesus; Not only do we get to live forever in paradise with Jesus but he helps us live our best life now on earth! He helps us be people who say “yes” to love and “no” to selfishness.

HOW CAN I GET IN ON THIS?

A great bible passage to begin thinking about and memorizing is Romans 10:9-13: *“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”*

Believing simply means to trust. It’s a lot like sitting in a chair. When you sit in a chair, you put all your weight in it because you know you won’t fall; you trust that it will hold you up. That is what it’s like to believe in (or to trust in) Jesus. You put your whole life on that chair and trust Jesus with it!

We can also think about becoming a follower of Jesus by using the model of the **ABC's**:

A - Admit to God that you are a sinner. Remember, the Bible tells us that all of us have sinned and fall short of God's standard. Admit to God that you have been selfish and need him to save you from your sin. A great place to start would be with asking God to forgive you in the areas where you have chosen selfishness.

B - Believe in Jesus. Believe that Jesus is God and died on the cross for you then rose from the dead after three days. And by doing that, defeated sin and death! Romans 10:9-13 is a great verse to memorize when it comes to the ABC's of believing.

C - Confess that Jesus is your king. This means making the decision every day to say yes to loving Jesus and no to selfishness. This means learning to love what God loves and dislike what God dislikes. This means living out the greatest commandment. Jesus replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

A

ADMIT

ADMIT TO
GOD THAT
YOU ARE A
SINNER



B

BELIEVE

BELIEVE THAT
JESUS IS GOD'S
ONE AND ONLY
SON

C

CONFESS

CONFESS YOUR SINS
AND ASK JESUS TO BE
YOUR SAVIOUR

You can talk to God right now by saying:

Dear Jesus, I know I am selfish and I sin. You see the list I wrote and I know that I deserve death like everyone else. But I believe that you died for me, rose from the dead, and defeated death so I can have life with you forever. I want you to be my king. Help me to learn to love what you love and hate what you hate.

Remember this prayer is the beginning of trusting Jesus. If you have asked Jesus to be your king, you can trust that he has heard you and has saved you! It is great to continue to ask Jesus to be your king. And when you choose selfishness instead of love, to still talk to him and ask him for forgiveness. Then start again in following him.

I HAVE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW JESUS. WHAT'S NEXT?

After Jesus rose from the dead he spent 40 days spending time teaching and encouraging his followers before he went up to heaven. He promised that one day he would come back and make all things that are sad, painful and terrible go away forever. But until that day comes, he has promised all of his followers a gift. He promised that he would leave each one the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts. That means that if you have chosen to follow Jesus, you've been given the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit was sent to help us obey Jesus and give us power to live out the Christian life. John 14:16 and Acts 1:8. Once you accept Jesus as your King, the Holy Spirit lives in you to show you how to know Jesus and live like Jesus. His job is to grow fruit; not apples or mangoes, but character. Galatians 5:22 calls these, the fruit of the Spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Of all the fruit, which do you think you're good at? Which do you think you need the Holy Spirit to grow in you?

The Holy Spirit also gives each follower of Jesus a gift. This gift is meant to be used to make Jesus known to the world and build up other followers of Jesus. Here are some of the gifts: *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues, serving, teaching, encouragement, mercy, giving, shepherding, leadership, evangelism...* Take a look in the Bible where these gifts are mentioned. Romans 12: 6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30, and Ephesians 4:11.

As you grow in your relationship with Jesus, he will show you how you are to use your gifts to make him known to the world and build up other followers of Jesus. Why don't you take time right now to pray and ask him to give you a gift. And, that he would begin to show you what it is.

BAPTISM & COMMUNION

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO TALK ABOUT BAPTISM & COMMUNION?

Now that you have read through the beginning of this booklet, we are ready to talk about baptism! In John 15:14 Jesus says, *"You are my friends, if you do what I command"*. One of Jesus' first commandments to those who have chosen to follow him is to be baptized. So what is baptism?

- Baptism is the outward action of what has already occurred in your heart. When a follower of Jesus is put under water it is like them dying to their selfishness (sin). And when they come out of the water, it is the sign of them embracing new life with Jesus forever.
- Baptism is sharing with everyone that you are choosing for Jesus to be your King and that you want to follow him.

Baptism shows the church that you are choosing to join them in reaching the world with the love of Jesus. As a part of the church you now have a new job. Matthew 28:18-20 *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"* Your new job is to tell other people about Jesus and to help other people know Jesus more. The Holy Spirit will help you do it!

Baptism is the time when the church officially welcomes you into the family of God.

- Baptism is the time when you choose to not just follow Jesus as an individual, but follow Jesus with the rest of those in the church. Because of this, baptism is a great time to encourage participating in communion alongside the Church.

WHAT IS COMMUNION?

Before Jesus died on the cross for you and me, he celebrated the meal of Passover with his followers. Passover was the time when the Israelites remembered and celebrated how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 1-15). In particular, the Israelites were meant to remember the 10th plague that God brought on the Egyptians. In order to be saved from death, each family who followed the Lord killed a lamb and put its blood on the doorframes of their houses. This was so that when the Angel of the Lord passed over their house, the firstborn would not be put to death. When Jesus ate this meal with his followers, he did something a little different at the meal. He took bread and broke it and said to his followers, *"this is my body given for you"*. Then, he took the wine and said, *"this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."* What Jesus was really saying to his followers was that he was going to become the Passover lamb; he was going to be beaten and killed so that the whole world could be saved.

On that night, communion began. Ever since then followers of Jesus have gathered to remember what Jesus did for them by taking communion.

When we drink the cup and eat the bread we remind ourselves of a few things:

- We remember Jesus took the punishment for our sins and became the Passover lamb to save us. We can thank him for the ways he has saved and blessed us.

- Just like our bodies need food and drink, taking communion reminds us that we need Jesus every day! We need him to keep saving us from our selfishness and to give us strength to live for him.
- Taking communion says *"I choose to live Jesus' way! He is my King and I will follow Him as best as I can."*
- This means we allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to see if we need to ask God's forgiveness for anything or need to ask forgiveness from other people

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO TAKE COMMUNION?

We encourage you to talk about this all together as a family before you start participating in communion. You have the freedom to decide when this takes place. At CrossRoads, we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. Check out a calendar and see when the next communion will be. Ask your parent or guardian if you can sit in the Big House with them. Then you can take communion with the Church!

A few ideas for families on helping your child take communion for the first time:

- As they hold the bread and the cup, encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit to search their heart to see if they need to ask forgiveness (from God for anything or need to ask forgiveness from other people)
- After they have taken time to reflect with the Holy Spirit, ask them if they have anything to share with you that they need to make right. (It is always great for you to share with them too!)
- Finally, pray together and thank Jesus for what he has done. Tell Him where you need him in the coming week

A few tips:

- Sit near the front. This will give you more time to explain and talk about the process with them while you have the elements in hand. Plus, it's harder to pay attention when you can't see (because you're in the back)!
- Have confidence. It is okay to talk during the whole experience, even if those around you are quiet. Be respectful of those around you, but know that explaining things to our kids is an important part of church.

YES! You made it! We have finished the book!!

ARE YOU READY?

If you are, here are some **next steps:**

- Attend a baptism session after a Sunday service with your parent or guardian
- Book an appointment with a K-6 pastor. Be sure to come ready with the completed work mentioned at the beginning of the booklet, parents AND kids. (found under "What is Baptism?").

Contact: **K-6KidsMin@CrossRoadsChurch.ca**
Phone: **403-347-6425 ext. 416**

WHAT TO EXPECT ON BAPTISM DAY

Where will the baptism service be held?

- Indoor Baptism Service – church sanctuary during regular service times.
- Summer Baptism Service – location and times to be determined each year. This service will be held, rain or shine. If the weather is poor, the service will be held in the church sanctuary.

When and Where should I meet?

Indoor Baptism Service:

- Please meet in the Worship Room 45 minutes before service start time
- Come dressed in your baptism clothing
- Check in with the Hosts as soon as you arrive
- You'll be given further instructions at that time.

Outdoor Service:

- This will depend on the location of the service. We will make sure you know all the details as the baptism day gets closer. Count on being ready to go at least 45 minutes prior to the service start time.

How long will the service last?

Services will vary depending on the number of baptisms but you can expect the service to last about 1-1 ½ hours.

Keepsakes

- Certificates will be provided upon request
- Each service will be available to view online
- Each Child will be prayed over by the prayer team and it will be recorded for them
- Guests are encouraged to take pictures or video of their own.

What should I bring?

- 2-3 towels (yes, you will get wet!)
- Change of clothing for after the service
- If possible, leave valuables at home or with a family member or friend during the service.

BEING PREPARED TO GET WET

What should I wear for my baptism?

- Dark, loose fitting nylon shorts, track pants or yoga pants (jeans/sweat pants not recommended)
- Bathing suit can be worn under your clothing
- Please don't wear lotions, hairspray or heavy makeup
- Keep deodorant to a minimum
- Water shoes or tight fitting sandals may be worn for outdoor baptisms.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

- The baptismal tank is chlorinated
- The Pastor who is baptizing you will be masked
- Parents, in order to limit contact and possibility of exposure, we ask that only the Pastor and baptizee be in the tank



crossroadschurch.ca/baptism
Email: k-6kidsmin@crossroadschurch.ca