

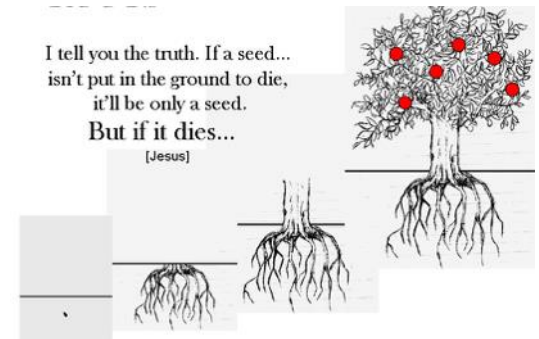


Session 3 Get Baptized

Once you've become a Believer, you'll want to get baptized. That's Jesus' first expectation to us. He's our Lord, so we want to obey him.

Why get baptized?

Here's a fun illustration: Hold up an apple. Ask, *What do I see?* _____ (*your guess*) No, not **an apple**. Not a computer company either!

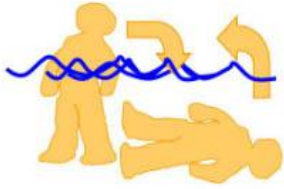


The diagram helps. An apple has the potential to become a tree, then an **orchard**. (*that's the right answer*). How? By the seed being planted in the ground and dying. We too must die to self – give up our independence – so God can give us new life. That's what baptism pictures, dying to self.

God wants us to be more than an apple. He expects us to become a **spiritual orchard**! God started a movement, his kingdom, with Jesus. His plan is for hundreds of men and women, boys and girls to find him and follow Jesus. He'll do it through you! You'll help by bringing God's new life to others!

What does **God wants us to become a spiritual orchard** mean to you? _____
_____ (*your answer*)

How to become an orchard? Think apples. They're planted in the ground to die. The seed sprouts, a tree grows, fruit comes. Same with you. You die to yourself, to your independence from God (that's **sin**). You surrender your life to Jesus and take his gift of a brand new life. He matures you so you produce fruit. Through you others find God and follow Jesus. How do you show others you've died to yourself and trusted Jesus? **Get baptized.**



Immersion

What is Baptism?

When you hear the word *baptism*, what comes to mind?
what does it mean to you? _____

(your answer)

You get baptized to follow Jesus' example

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. Matthew 3.16

Jesus is your model. He got baptized (*go under, submerge, immerse*). You too.

Jesus commands you to be baptized

Christians take seriously what Jesus said to his followers after he came alive.

I've been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I'm with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28.18-20.

Christians say, *If Jesus commands it, we'll do it.*

I obey Jesus by becoming his disciple and _____

_____ *(finish the sentence)*

Christians in the Bible were baptized

When people became Christians in the Bible, they immediately got baptized. A powerful politician, after he became a Christian, asked for baptism.

... they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Acts 8.36-38

Why did Jesus ask you to be baptized? _____
_____ (your answer)

Baptism tells your world you're really a Jesus-follower

After trusting in Christ, your first step of obedience is baptism. Stories in the Bible illustrate this:

When they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8.12.

Your story should be the same. You show you're a follower of Jesus by being baptized. Baptism is an acted-out story, your own mini-drama, showing you died, got buried, and came alive. You tell others what's happened deep inside with actions, not just words. (Of course, we mean spiritually.)

Baptism is my own mini-drama

Baptism shows your beginning to know God and obey him.

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. 1 John 2.3

Any questions about baptism? _____
_____ (your questions)

Here's some other Christians have asked. *(see if any are relevant)*

Who should get baptized? Anyone? Everyone? The answer's simple: *every person who has repented and believed in Christ as Savior.*

What does Repent mean? to think a new way about God and about life. Thinking a new way leads to a U-turn in life. Like turning a car around, you turn back to God from sin and independence.

Who should get baptized? Anyone who's old enough to make a choice and respond personally. Here's what the Bible says: *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. Acts 2.41*

When should I be baptized? *As soon as you've believed!* Consider this family's middle-of-the-night experience:

Paul and Silas shared the word of the Lord with the jailer and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night [after midnight], the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. Acts 16.32-33

Don't delay. If you received Christ into your life and want to follow him, get baptized now.

Should I wait until I feel it's right? No, it's better to *act your way into a feeling* rather than *feel your way into acting*. Act, then the feeling will come!

Who should I invite to my baptism? Everyone! Invite your family and friends. It's a great way to show you're now a follower of Jesus.

Will I need to say anything? Baptism communicates without words, so speaking is a bonus. When you get baptized, briefly tell your ***before-and-after*** story. You can use ***P-L-A-N*** to help you write it. (That's our next session). Your story describes your journey to Jesus – it will encourage others to do the same. It gives you the chance to thank God and those who brought you to trust in him. You can even invite others who listen to join you in following him.

I'll be baptized when? _____ (*your answer*)

Next session: Your before and after Story