

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISM

To be baptized is to follow Christ in obedience. Please remember that baptism will not save anyone. In fact, the only requirement for baptism is that you have already trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord & Savior. This is a big step in your Christian life. It is the very first step in obedience to God after being forgiven of your sins. I also want you to understand that this is a time when Satan will attack you. As soon as Jesus, in obedience to God the Father, was baptized, it was THEN that Jesus was led to be tempted by the Devil. (Matthew 3.13-4.1) Do not be overtaken or surprised when attacks come. Be strong in the Lord! Be faithful to Him! Love Him with your entire being. Learn to depend on your brothers & sisters in Christ to help you also.

As you take this incredible step in obeying God, here are some instructions for your upcoming baptism:

1. Invite Everyone

Remember to Invite all of your Friends and Family. This is a time of celebration for what God has done in your life. This is also one of the few times you will have friends and family who are completely focused on Jesus and how He has changed your life. Scripture tells us to “Make the most of every opportunity when dealing with unbelievers” and to “Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that you have.” With this in mind, we try to be very intentional about sharing your testimonies and the gospel with our guests. Please invite them all.

2. Arrive Early

The morning you are being baptized, arrive at least 30 minutes early to church. This way you can be relaxed, and ready to go. I would also ask that you come with me and the worship team to go pray just before the service. Please meet in the sound booth at 9:45 AM.

3. Bring Clothes

Remember to bring your swimsuit, a non-white t-shirt, and a towel. You may bring shorts as well if you would like.

4. Be in Prayer

Be in prayer asking God to speak through you and that you would share your testimony of how He has changed your life. Pray for the people you are inviting. Pray for me and the sermon, that God would speak through me.

5. Be Prepared to Share

Be prepared to give brief answers to the following questions:

- A. Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord & Savior?
- B. Do you wish to be obedient to God & be baptized as a believer today?
- C. How has Jesus Christ changed your life?

I. Before	God	Describe your life before you knew God personally.
II. How	Jesus	Tell specifically about the day Jesus saved you.
III. After	Father	Now that you know God as Father, tell how your life has changed.

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6. Spiritual Preparation

A. Read 1 John this week.

*Helpful tip regarding "sin" when reading 1st John

- banana peel sin
- donut sin
- buffet sin

B. Reflect on the Birthmarks of a Believer:

- not perfect but wanting Christ's perfection
- repentance of specific / lifestyle sins
- love of God over my sins
- love of other believers
- church attendance vs. my priorities/preferences
- these should help as you prepare to share your testimony

Notice that our baptism services are not centered on the water aspect of the service. They are also not centered on music, the testimonies & stories of changed lives that will be shared, nor even the pastor. The center of all of our baptism services is THE GOSPEL! We sing songs to lift God up. The testimonies are told to share with others how God can change lives. The pastor preaches to exalt God in His glory and instruct people in godliness. And then we invite others to join us in trusting Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives. This is why we arrange our baptism services in such a specific way. The gospel is center & the focus of the service!

***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”
Proverbs 3.5-6***