

Baptism and Church Membership Conversation Guidelines for Parents and Children New Valley Church

NVC Parents,

It is an exciting and beautiful thing to watch your children make a profession of faith in Jesus. As the church, our primary calling is to baptize and make disciples of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-19). Far from being excluded, children are actually called the model of faith by Jesus (Luke 18:17). Jesus never turned away an opportunity to care for, love, and teach the children of God's people. In that spirit, we want to encourage the full participation of children in the church. Here is the process for having your children join:

Step 1: Discern whether your children have, or may be ready to make a profession of faith. This means they can understand and articulate the simple gospel (See below).

Step 2: Go over the simple guidelines below with your child in order to prepare them for a membership interview.

Step 3: Contact Pastor Gray (gray@newvalleychurch.org) or any elder when you feel like your child is ready for a short conversation-interview. This conversation will involve the parents, the child, and pastors or elders.

Step 4: We will set up a date for your child to be baptized (if not already) and a date for them to officially join the church (membership service).

Step 5: Your child is now a full communicant members of New Valley Church!

Note: Participation in the catechism class (7-10 yrs) is strongly encouraged for the early formation of your child's faith.

Also Note: We typically do not make young children communicant members without their parents also being members. Some exceptions, just ask!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

For the Kingdom,
Gray Ewing, Pastor
gray@newvalleychurch.org

Interview Guidelines

In the conversation-interview, we will discuss: 1. Baptism 2. Simple Gospel 3. Membership Vows.

1. Baptism.

Baptism is required before becoming a communicant member at New Valley.

- A. Have you/your child been baptized? If so, can you tell us when and where?
- B. If you have not been baptized, are you willing to be baptized at New Valley Church?

2. The Simple Gospel.

The heart of our conversation with you and your child will be to determine if he or she understands and can articulate “The simple Gospel.” This is what we mean by profession of faith. There are two elements to a simple gospel presentation. We are looking for your child to articulate:

- 1. Knowledge of their own sinfulness.
- 2. Trust in Jesus for their salvation.

***Note: We are not looking for any particular use of language. The ways that the simple gospel can be expressed are numerous. What we are looking for is an understanding that they are not saved by their own behavior, but by Jesus.**

3. Membership Vows.

During the membership service, we will read the questions below and ask for an audible “YES” from your child. In our interview, a pastor or elder will seek to explain these vows to your child so that they will be ready to answer honestly. It is our desire that you begin that process by explaining these vows to them at home. The longer questions below will be used during the worship service, but we are providing a shorter and simpler version to help with comprehension.

- 1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure without hope except by His sovereign mercy and do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, receiving and depending upon Him alone for salvation as he has been offered in the Gospel?
Do you know that you are sinful? Do you trust in Jesus?
- 2. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Jesus Christ?
Do you promise to do your best to live like Jesus lived?
- 3. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you promise to help out at church?

4. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to further its purity and peace?

Do you promise to listen to your pastors, teachers, and elders?