

Baptism and You

What about you? Have you taken this important step of faith in Jesus? So many believers say that baptism confirmed their commitment to follow Christ. They also talk about the joy and freedom that came from saying publicly, “I give my life—body, soul, and spirit—to Jesus Christ. I will trust and obey Him all my life.” No doubt, that’s one reason Jesus commanded the church to baptize everyone who believes in Him as the first step in being His disciple!

Baptism Sunday

When is the next baptism at Hopevale?

Our next churchwide baptism at Hopevale will be **Sunday, November 6**, in all three worship services. If you’re in a Community Group, talk with your leaders. You may be able to be baptized this summer with your group!

How can I prepare for baptism?

Read all you can about believer’s baptism. This *Connections* study guide is a good place to start. And we ask that you take the preparation class, *Being Baptized at Hopevale*, either on Friday, **October 21**, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. OR Saturday, **October 22**, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

The class explores what the Bible says about baptism, and helps you prepare practically for baptism when you’re ready. Many people get questions answered and gain confidence in their decision to be baptized.

What if I have questions now?

You may have questions about believer’s baptism at Hopevale. Many do. Does baptism save me? What if I was baptized as a baby? What do I need to wear? Here’s how to get answers to your questions:

- ⇒ Pick up a baptism brochure in the auditorium entry ways.
- ⇒ Copy this link to Hopevale’s website—<http://hopevale.org/baptism>.

How old do children need to be to be baptized at Hopevale? We hear that question a lot, and our answer is, “It depends.” It depends less on your child’s age and *so much more* on whether they understand the good news about Jesus, have consciously put their trust in Jesus, and show evidence of new life in Christ. We encourage you to talk with Jodi Quinn, Hopevale’s KidCity Director, or Sam Burke, our middle- and high-school pastor. They can help you and your child.

Baptism QA

What do you believe about baptism and why? Respond to the questions below, then compare your answers to what the noted Scriptures teach.

1. Why would you say it's important for a person to be baptized?

- ◇ To follow Jesus' example
- ◇ To join the church
- ◇ To obey the Lord's command
- ◇ To "cover all the bases" as a Christian

Mark 1:4, 7-11 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Matthew 28:18-20

2. Will a person go to Heaven if they have not been baptized?

- ◇ Yes
- ◇ No
- ◇ I'm not sure

John 5:24 and 1 Corinthians 1:13-17 and Luke 23:38-43

3. If someone has already been baptized, do they need to be baptized again?

- ◇ No
- ◇ Yes
- ◇ It depends

Acts 2:40-42 and Acts 8:12-13 and Acts 19:1-5

4. Who is qualified to baptize another person?

- ◇ Only a pastor or minister
- ◇ Any believer, not just ministers
- ◇ Any person, whether Christian or not
- ◇ Not needed. A person can baptize themselves

John 4:1-3 and Acts 8:34-38 with Acts 6:1-6 and Acts 9:10-19

5. How would you respond to this statement? *I realize that much of what I know and believe about baptism comes from:*

- ◇ My family
- ◇ My church background
- ◇ What the Bible teaches
- ◇ What makes sense to me

6. How has this study caused you to think differently about baptism? How can you respond to what you've learned?

*Peter pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."
41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41-42*