

What About You?

Since the church began, believers around the world have identified with the Lord Jesus through this simple, beautiful rite in water. Being baptized is an important and joyful first step in following Him!

So many believers say that baptism confirmed their commitment to obey the Lord Jesus. 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 @ Hopevale

Our Next Churchwide Baptism

Our next churchwide baptism at Hopevale will be **Sunday, November 1**. You can sign up for this baptism now, and we’ll remind you in early fall. Sign up online or at the Adults Desk on Sundays.

Being Baptized Class

If you’re thinking about being baptized, we ask that you take the preparation class, *Being Baptized at Hopevale*. Attend this class on **either Friday, October 16, at 6:00pm OR Saturday, October 17, at 8:30am.**

Questions?

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:

- ⇒ Attend one of the baptism classes. You’re welcome to come for information only.
- ⇒ Pick up a baptism brochure in the lobby.
- ⇒ Click this link to Hopevale’s website—<http://www.hopevale.org/default.aspx?pid=91>

Children can be baptized, too. The Bible teaches “believer’s baptism”: When a person consciously trusts in Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord, she is ready to be baptized. Children often have that clear testimony of faith in Christ, and we parents should support their desire to be baptized. It takes wisdom and discernment. Mary Dyer, Pastor Jason, or Pastor Sam can help you in deciding whether your child understands believer’s baptism and is ready to be baptized. Feel free to talk with them.

Committed Faith

Baptism takes our personal faith and makes it an objective experience. It announces to everyone that we have surrendered to a new authority in our lives. . . . Such an act not only lifts our faith out of the unstable realm of our own subjectivity, it also enlists us for the cause of Christ. Bruce Shelley

1. What did you think about the baptisms on Sunday? Whose story did you identify with most?
2. How did you understand baptism as you were growing up? How do you understand it now?
3. What part does baptism play in our commitment to *follow* Jesus? Consider these Scriptures. Do you think a person can truly follow Christ without taking the step of believer's baptism? Explain.
 - Acts 2:38-42—
 - Acts 8:36—
 - Acts 18:8—
 - Matthew 28:19-20—
4. Have you been baptized as a believer? If you have, share your experience with the group—when, where, and how?
5. What do you think about what Bruce Shelley said about baptism? Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. What questions do you have about believer's baptism at Hopevale?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4