

Baptism Guide for kids





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Dear Parents,

(And when we say parents, we mean biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, grandparent, guardian, or spiritual parent)

We are so thankful you've chosen to walk alongside your child on this exciting journey of baptism. God designed your child with intention and chose you to be part of this journey on purpose. You are the right person to prayerfully walk with them through these questions and moments of discovery.

If you're new to faith yourself or still exploring what you believe, know this book is also for you.

You don't have to have all the answers to guide your child; you just need to be willing to learn alongside them.

You may have sought out this resource to help you and your child understand if they are ready for their next step in faith through baptism. Whether your child has started asking about baptism or you're just beginning to explore what it means to follow Jesus together, this resource helps both you and your child learn, pray, and take next steps at a pace that honors what God is doing in your child's heart. Throughout this journey we encourage you to look for development.

Do not feel pressured to rush into baptism discussions and next steps. God's Spirit is at work in their life, stirring their heart toward Him in ways you might not even see yet. Keep talking about faith in your home, keep showing them the love of Jesus, and trust that God will continue to lead them in His timing.

This book is designed for you to read first and then together with your child. Throughout the chapters we will offer time for reflection and prayer with a space for your child to respond.

Additionally, we are here to walk alongside you as well. The QR code on page 38 includes a Parent Guide with resources that are helpful while reading the book and for support after.

As parents, you carry a sacred calling—to help your child take steps toward Jesus by modeling it in your own faith and encouraging them in love and truth. We bless you in Jesus' name with wisdom, faith, discernment and joy as you walk this spiritual journey together.

**In Him,
The Hills Church**

Introduction

This little book is
all about baptism,

what it means,

why it matters,

and how it connects to
God's big story.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a public declaration or announcement of faith in Jesus when a person goes under the water and comes back up again. It's a picture of being washed clean and made new, showing we are joining in His death, burial and resurrection.

Who is Baptism for?

Baptism is for anyone who believes in Jesus. After hearing the good news and choosing to trust Him, people are baptized.

Why Does Baptism Matter?

Jesus told us we should be baptized and showed us how (Matthew 3:13-17). Before He began His ministry, He was baptized to obey His Father and show us what to do. When you choose baptism, you're following Jesus' example and saying, "I want to obey God, too."

How is Baptism Connected to God's Big Story?

Baptism is not only something we do, but also something God does for us. Baptism shows that God rescues us, forgives us, and gives us a brand-new life with Him. The Bible says that through baptism, God makes a promise. He promises to be with us and to give us new life in Christ.

In this book, you'll learn what baptism means, why it's such an important part of God's rescue mission, how people in the Bible experienced it, and how you can experience it too. We will never understand everything about baptism, but as we look at the stories God gives us in Scripture, the Holy Spirit helps us see His love and His plan more clearly. So, let's get started and see how water has always been part of God's big rescue story!



01

When The Sea Became A Road

The story we're about to read isn't found word-for-word in the Bible, but it's based on what really happened. It helps us imagine what it might have been like when God rescued His people, the Israelites, after they escaped from being slaves in Egypt and came to the Red Sea.

A young boy and girl are standing at the edge of the Red Sea. Ziv had never seen anything like the sea before. And neither had his older sister Shira. The wind whipped around them, tugging at their clothes and tangling Shira's hair. The air smelled fresh and salty, like the sea and sky, poised with anticipation. Hundreds of boys and girls had stood in the same spot and dreamt of wonder and adventure. But right now, Ziv and Shira weren't thinking about any of that.

They were terrified. They were surrounded by their parents, family, animals, and everything they could carry on their backs.

Everything they knew was behind them now. Ziv and Shira's whole family were Israelites. For hundreds of years, their people were slaves in Egypt. At least, they had been slaves until

God sent a man named Moses.

That's when the rumors started to spread. Moses showed up and stood toe to toe with the Pharaoh. It's all anyone could talk about. Ziv remembered how his father's voice shook with both fear and excitement. Shira remembered the way their mother stayed up at night, praying quietly in the dark.

Moses and the one true God were challenging Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. Again and again, Moses went to Pharaoh with the same message:

“Let my people go.”

Each time, Pharaoh refused, and each time, God showed His power in ways no one could ignore. At last, Pharaoh gave in. He told the Israelites to leave Egypt.

Ziv and Shira had rushed home to find their things already packed. Their mother had even packed the bread dough before it had risen - she never did that. Outside, the streets were alive with singing and dancing. People laughed and wept and hugged one another. Joy was in the air. But now, standing on the shore of the Red Sea, people weren't laughing. They were trembling in fear. Ziv clutched Shira's hand tightly. Shira pulled Ziv closer. In the distance, Pharaoh's chariots thundered nearer; the ground shook beneath their feet. Pharaoh had changed his mind. He was coming to take them back or worse. The crowd swirled in confusion, panic rising like waves. And then, above all the noise, one voice rose. It was Moses

“Do not be afraid,” he shouted. “Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. Ziv and Shira would never forget what happened next. The wind howled — not like before, but stronger, deeper— as if God's own breath had rushed across the water.

The sea split in two, forming towering walls of water on both sides. Right down the middle, dry ground appeared.

A path.

Where moments before, Ziv and Shira's family had been trapped with death behind them and death ahead of them, there was a way for them and their family to cross to safety on the other side. They couldn't believe what they were seeing. No one could. And yet, not one person asked, "What should we do now?"

They passed through the water.

Ziv, Shira, their family, and thousands of others hurried across the path, eyes wide with wonder. When they reached the far side, Ziv collapsed on the sand, breathless. Shira flopped down beside him, still clutching his hand. Their father knelt in front of them, his face shining with tears and awe at what God had done.

"My children," he said, "today we have witnessed the mighty hand of the Lord. We were slaves. We were on the brink of destruction. But God freed us. He defeated our enemies.

Always remember this,

and put your
trust in Him."

Ziv looked at Shira. Shira looked at the sea. After passing through the water, they knew they would never be the same.

02

God's
Rescue Mission

All through the Bible, God has been rescuing His people.
And guess what? He often uses water to do it.

God has a special way of leading people to water, helping them go through it, and changing them along the way.

We begin with Ziv and Shira because their story helps us imagine a real moment from the Bible when God rescued His people by leading them through the Red Sea.

The Israelites were in serious trouble, trapped and afraid with nowhere to go. But God made a way. They passed through the water, and when they came out on the other side, they were no longer slaves. They were free.

God promised a man named Abraham that his family would become a great nation and have their own land. Many years later his descendants, the Israelites, ended up in Egypt and became slaves. God rescued them through Moses and led them across the desert into the Promised Land He had promised long before.

Genesis
1:1-2

God's Spirit moved over the waters at creation

Genesis
1:9-10

He separated the land from the sea

Genesis
6-9

He saved Noah and his family in the ark

Joshua
3-14:17

He helped Joshua and the Israelites cross a river to reach the Promised Land

Through the stories above we see that God used water as part of His big rescue plan for His people. Thankfully He continues today with our baptism. But guess what? The baptism that Christians go through today is even better! The Israelites were rescued from being slaves in Egypt and taken into the Promised Land. We are rescued from slavery to something even bigger, *sin*, and brought into something even better, *His family*.



03

The Good News

God created the world beautifully and full of purpose. He lived in perfect relationship with people. God was close to His people and walked with them.

But when humans chose to go their own way instead of God's way, sin entered the world and broke that relationship. Sin is anything that goes against what God says is good. Where God brings life, joy, peace, and love, sin brings death, confusion, sadness, and separation.

From that moment on, all of creation longed for someone who could defeat sin's power and make things right again. God promised one day a Savior would come, someone to save all of creation and us from sin.

And guess what, He actually came. He was born in Bethlehem. His name is Jesus. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to rescue us.

Jesus lived out God's plan for His people, then defeated death on the cross and made our relationship with God right again.

He rose from the dead, and through His resurrection, He offers not only forgiveness, but also the power to live a new life with

Jesus our King and friend.

The baptism
that Christians
go through
today is
even better!

This is the Good News!

The best news ever!

God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and bring us close to Him again. When we say yes to Jesus, we become part of God's forever family. He gives us

a new heart,

a new start,

and a new purpose

to live with Him, love like Him, and help bring His goodness into the world until the day He makes everything new again.

04

Baptism

Baptism is our response to the Good News of Jesus. When we choose to follow Him, baptism is the way we say “yes” to His invitation. It’s how we join His story of rescue and new life. Every Sunday morning at The Hills Church, after we read a Bible story together in Bible Study Groups, we ask three kinds of questions:

Head

“What do we
need to know?”

Heart

“Why does this
matter?”

Hands

“Now what
should I do?”

We have chosen three
stories involving

baptism

from the Bible that we want you
to read together, and then answer
some Head, Heart, and Hands
questions for each.

STORY 01

Jesus Gets Baptized

Matthew 3:13-17 (NLT)

“13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

15 But Jesus said,
“It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.”
So John agreed to baptize him. 16 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.
17 And a voice from heaven said,

“This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Reflect Together

Head

What did Jesus do in the story?

Heart

What were you imagining as the story was being told?
How did it make you feel?

Hands

After hearing this story, what do you think God is helping you do?

STORY 02

Lydia's Heart is Opened

Acts 16:13-15 (NLT)

13 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.

14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.

15 She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests.

“If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.

Reflect Together

Head

What happened in Lydia's heart before she was baptized?

Heart

How do you think Lydia felt when God opened her heart to believe?

Hands

After hearing this story, what do you think God is helping you do?

STORY

03

Peter Preaches and Thousands are Baptized

Acts 2:14, 22-24, 32-33, 36-41 (NLT)

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.

22 “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him.

24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

32 “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” 41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Reflect Together

Head

When the people’s hearts were pierced, and they asked what they should do, what did Peter tell them to do?

Heart

What do you think it means that their hearts were pierced? How do you think the people felt when they heard they could be forgiven?

Hands

After hearing this story, what do you think God is helping you do?



05

Gifts For The Journey

I want you to picture two things! A party and a new life-long adventure! When someone is baptized they join God's family, the church, and that calls for a party! When you have a birthday party, what do you get? Presents! In the same way, God gives gifts when his children are baptized.

Being Baptized also means taking off your old life, and putting on a new life

Romans 6:4

A new life means a new journey, and it won't always be easy. Just like parents give presents to celebrate your birthday and pack what you need for a long trip, God gives us many gifts at baptism, and we'll explore five of them that help us on the lifelong journey of following Jesus.

*Parent Suggestion —
Use ICB translation for
Colossians 2:13-15

Take some time to open up your Bible and read about each gift.

The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38

Forgiveness of Sins

Acts 10:34

Adoption into God's Family

Galatians 3:26-29

Matthew 3:17

Union with Christ

Romans 6:4 (What's true of Jesus is now true of you)

Freedom from Bondage

Colossians 2:13-15*

Reflect Together

Head

What are some of the gifts God gives to people when they are baptized?

Heart

Which of these gifts makes you feel the most excited or thankful, and why?

Hands

What are things that you can do to encourage and invite more of God's help?

Your Next Step

06

Now that we've explored God's big rescue plan and the Good News (and how baptism connects to it)...

Let's take a moment to ask a few last Head, Heart, and Hands questions. Take time to talk about the questions below and prayerfully consider your next step of faith.

01 Head:

Based on the stories we read, what do you understand baptism to mean?

02 Heart:

How do you feel when you hear the Good News that God loves you, sent Jesus to rescue you, and invites you into new life with Him?

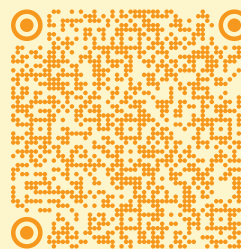
03 Hands:

Do you believe in Jesus and feel ready to say “yes” to following Him by choosing baptism as your next step?

If you're not sure yet, that's okay—who could you talk with to help you take the next step?

Take some time to pray and talk together about what you've written.

Ask God to keep showing you what He's doing in your heart and what your next step might be.



Scan for FAQ'S

Remember, God leads each of us at the right time and in the right way. Whether you feel ready for baptism now or still have questions,

God is with you, guiding you as you follow Him.

Getting Ready For Baptism

07

Baptism is such a big decision that there are some special things you could do to prepare for the big day:

Ask

a trusted pastor, church leader, or elder to share their story of following Jesus.

Try

fasting, giving up something small for a day. It doesn't have to be food (but you should try fasting from food sometime) to focus on God.

Talk

with your parents about what following Jesus means to them.

Read

or listen to a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) to learn more about Jesus.

Take

time to pray, asking God to help you get ready for baptism and to grow after it.

Write

down on a piece of paper why you want to follow Jesus and what He means to you. (If you don't know what to write, use your answers from the "Your Next Step" page to help.)

Other details to consider:

Think about who you want to ask to baptize you. It might be a family member or someone in your church family you know well.

Think about what clothes you need to wear in the water.

Think about where you want to be baptized. We always hope you'll be baptized with as many of your church family possible to witness and cheer you on!

Talk with the person who will baptize you about what will happen on the big day. Spend a few minutes together going over what you will say, what they will ask, and how the baptism will take place so you feel ready and confident.

What To Expect On Baptism Day

08

The person baptizing you will ask a few simple questions about your faith, such as:

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Have you chosen to trust Him as your Savior and follow Him as your Lord?

Are you ready to begin a new life with Jesus?

After you answer these questions, you will hold your nose and take a breath. This symbolizes joining Jesus in His death. Then you will be gently lowered under the water, which shows that you have been buried with Christ and raised to new life in Him. When you come up out of the water, the church will celebrate with you, it's a moment you'll never forget

Invite People to Your Baptism

Baptism is a special moment that shows everyone you believe in Jesus. Why not invite your friends and family to see it? Even if they don't believe in Jesus, they can still see what God has done in your life. Who knows? It might inspire someone to learn more about Jesus too.

Who Do You Want to Invite?

Celebrate Afterward

Baptism is a big deal! Afterward, have a party or special gathering to celebrate. When people graduate or have babies, we give gifts, why not do the same after baptism? You could get a new Bible, a cross necklace, new clothes (that's what the early Christians often did), or a prayer journal as a special reminder of your new life with Jesus.

Remember Your Baptism

Every year, celebrate the anniversary of your baptism. Pray and ask God how He's been growing you. Celebrating the anniversary of your baptism is a way to remember how God has worked in your life.

What's After Baptism

09

We've reached the end of our journey in this book to learn about baptism.

But baptism isn't the finish line — it's the starting point. Just like Ziv and Shira begin their journey toward the Promised Land, your baptism is the beginning of a new adventure with Jesus.

At The Hills Church, we talk a lot about what it means to follow Jesus. It's not just about believing something...

it's about living it out every day.

Everything that comes next—being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did—happens because the Holy Spirit is guiding and helping you.

Be With Jesus

After baptism, you don't walk alone. Jesus is with you *everywhere* you go. Because of the cross and the Holy Spirit, you get to talk to God like a child talking to a loving Father. You can walk with Jesus every day.

Some ways to be with Jesus:

- Pray and talk to God
- Read the Bible
- Sing worship songs

Become Like Jesus

When you spend time with someone, you start to become more like them. The same is true with Jesus. As you grow, God's Spirit helps you think, speak, and act more like Jesus.

Some ways to become like Jesus:

- Keep praying and reading your Bible
- Make choices that honor God
- Show patience, kindness, and forgiveness to others

Do What Jesus Did

Jesus didn't just sit around, He healed, helped, taught, fed people, and forgave. He lived to serve others and tell people about true life found in Him.

Now that you're following Him, you get to do what Jesus did.

Some things you can do:

- Serve at your church and in your community
- Be a friend to others
- Tell others about Jesus

Do It

The Christian life is not a solo mission; it's a team sport.

God made you to live your new life with other followers of Jesus. That's why being part of the church matters.

You can grow with others by attending church with your family, being part of a small group or Bible class, and spending time with other kids and families who are learning to follow Jesus too.

Baptism starts your journey, but Jesus walks with you the whole way. The Holy Spirit empowers you. And your church family is with you too.

You don't have to be perfect. Just keep walking. Now that you have completed this book on baptism we would love to connect and walk through next steps with you. Please reach out to your Kids Minister at your campus.

May God bless you as you walk together with Jesus, become more like Jesus, and joyfully do what Jesus did.

Together

