

I HAVE DECIDED

MY **BAPTISM**

Facilitator Notes

© BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The Goal of MyBaptism

The goal of MyBaptism is to give you a biblical foundation of what Water Baptism is and help you understand the importance of following Jesus' example in being baptized.

Matthew 3:16 (NIV): "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him."

The Greek word for "baptized" is the word "baptizo" - to cleanse by submerging.

Baptism is a full submersion.

New Testament:

- John the Baptist (Mark 1:4-5)
- Jesus and His disciples (John 3:22, 26; John 4:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16)
- Baptizing in Jesus' name in Acts (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12, 35-38)

Old Testament:

- Noah and the flood (Genesis 7:18-22)
- The Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:26-30)
- Elijah (1 Kings 18:33-39)

FACILITATOR NOTES

The clearest example that shows the meaning of "baptizô" is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. The example is a recipe for making pickles and it's helpful because it uses "baptô" and "baptizô". Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be "dipped" (baptô) into boiling water and then "baptized" (baptizô) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution, but "baptô" is temporary. "Baptizô", the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

Discuss Jesus and NT examples as well as OT examples that foreshadow water baptism. The word "baptizo" is in all NT examples here. Although the Hebrew word "tabal" is not used in the NT, it appears several times in the OT. This word is derived from the root word "taval" meaning "to dip, to immerse, to plunge or to wash." It is used 88 times in the OT, mostly in the context of ritual purification.

TO BE BAPTIZED SHOULD MEAN A PERMANENT CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

PART 2: RECEIVING CHRIST

1. RECOGNIZE GOD'S PLAN - LIFE AND PEACE

The messages that you have heard at church all emphasize God's love for you. He created you to know Him and to be in relationship with Him in order that you may experience His peace and life.

John 3:16 (NIV): "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

2. REALIZE AND REPENT OF OUR PROBLEM - SIN

Everyone chooses to disobey God and go their own way. The result is sin, and that sin leads you away from personally knowing God and causes you to serve yourself.

Romans 3:23 (NIV): "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 (NIV): "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. RESPOND TO GOD'S REMEDY - THE CROSS

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for your sin. God sent His Son to bridge the gap. Christ did this by paying the penalty for your sin when He died on the cross and rose from the grave.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV): "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

4. RECEIVE CHRIST - AS LORD AND SAVIOR

You must individually decide to follow Jesus by prayerfully asking Him to come into your life. Jesus is the bridge between you and the Father. Upon receiving Him, you can know God personally and experience His love as a child of God.

John 1:12 (NLT): "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."

FACILITATOR NOTES

"Repent" is a strong NT word that signifies a change of mind. To repent is not just adding Jesus to your belief system, but turning away from lies in repentance and responding to Jesus.

5. RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION FOR LIFE AND PEACE

- Respond to Christ's invitation to "Follow Me."
- Admit your need ("I am a sinner," "I have messed up," or "I need help").
- Be willing to turn from your sins, and ask God to forgive you (this is called repentance).
- Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
- Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (receive Christ as your Lord and Savior).

FACILITATOR NOTES

Baptism in Jesus' name is a response after hearing and believing and is a result of repentance.

Prayer of Commitment

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and that You raised Him to life. Jesus, I want you to come into my heart and to take control of my life. I want to trust You as my Savior and follow You as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

PART 3: WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

WATER BAPTISM IS A FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE.

Hebrews 6:1-3 (NKJV): “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.”

1. WATER BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL OF NEW LIFE.

Romans 6:4 (NIV): “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.”

Acts 2:38-41 (NASB): “Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.’ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on urging them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

2. WATER BAPTISM IS A COMMAND FOR DISCIPLES.

Mark 16:16 (NKJV): “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV): “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

FACILITATOR NOTES

Baptism is also a symbol of death, being buried with Christ, and the water is actually like a burial ground.

Discuss believing and obedience; salvation and baptism. While baptism is not required for salvation, it is biblically linked to believing since belief in ancient terms is always associated with an action; therefore, believe and be baptized.

Distinguish the difference between being a convert versus a true disciple of Christ.

3. WATER BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE COVENANT WE'VE ENTERED INTO WITH JESUS.

Declaration precedes public demonstration.

What is a covenant?

Hebrews 9:15 (NIV): "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

A covenant is a sacred and binding agreement between God and His people. It is a mutual commitment and permanent kinship based not on performance but acceptance. God's Word outlines His promises, blessings, and expectations for those in covenant with Him.

PART 4: THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

JESUS WAS WATER BAPTIZED. WHY NOT YOU?

Matthew 3:14-17 (NIV): "But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

You are following Jesus' example by being baptized.

Holy Spirit is actively involved.

Water baptism provides affirmation of your new identity in Christ.

FACILITATOR NOTES

Declaration precedes public demonstration.

When you are about to get baptized, you may be asked this question: If Jesus was the one baptizing you, what would you ask Him for?

This story is also found in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1.

Consider asking, "True or False: Jesus performed miracles before His baptism?". The answer is FALSE; it was only after Jesus' baptism that He performed miracles. His baptism demonstrated to His apostles the importance of water baptism in becoming a disciple. Holy Spirit is actively involved in our baptism, and it is through the power of the Holy Spirit we are empowered to make disciples and perform miracles. We look forward to seeing what God may do in your life after you are baptized.

WHY IS WATER BAPTISM IMPORTANT TO ME?

1. WATER BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES THE CLEANSING OF YOUR CONSCIENCE BECAUSE OF CHRIST.

Romans 6:4 (NIV): “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.”

1 Peter 3:18-21 (NKJV): “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

2. WATER BAPTISM GIVES YOU CONFIDENCE.

Acts 16: 14-15 (MSG): “One woman, Lydia, was from Thyatira and a dealer in expensive textiles, known to be a God-fearing woman. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, the Master gave her a trusting heart—and she believed! After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, she said in a surge of hospitality, ‘If you’re confident that I’m in this with you and believe in the Master truly, come home with me and be my guests.’ We hesitated, but she wouldn’t take no for an answer.”

3. WATER BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION THAT SHOWS THE WORLD AND OUR CHURCH WE ARE HIS.

It is a public demonstration, not private.

Acts 16: 29-34 (MSG): “The jailer got a torch and ran inside. Badly shaken, he collapsed in front of Paul and Silas. He led them out of the jail and asked, ‘Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?’ They said, ‘Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you’ll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!’ They went on to spell out in detail the story of the Master—the entire family got in on this part. They never did get to bed that night. The jailer made them feel at home, dressed their wounds, and then—he couldn’t wait till morning!—was baptized, he and everyone in his family. There in his home, he had food set out for a festive meal. It was a night to remember: He and his entire family had put their trust in God; everyone in the house was in on the celebration.”

FACILITATOR NOTES

Taking a physical action on your belief provides confidence. It is something you can point to, and it can be confirmed by witnesses. This action, done in community, can be a very powerful confirmation, building confidence.

Explain the difference between a private decision and public declaration.

Opportunity to share your baptism story and/or testimonies of families witnessing baptism and how it impacted them.

PART 5: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ABOUT INFANT BAPTISM?

The Bible teaches us that salvation is an individual decision and is followed by water baptism. At Bayside, we model this and believe water baptism is for children and adults who have made that personal decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of their lives. We don't baptize infants or children, or adults for that matter, who have not yet made that choice. No one can make the decision to be saved on someone else's behalf. This decision is made when someone reaches the point of having a conscience before God and is ready to receive Him. Upon choosing the gift of salvation, someone may choose to be water baptized.

In the Bible, we do see young children dedicated for service to the Lord. Instead of infant baptism, Bayside offers a "Parent and Child Dedication." This dedication serves as an agreement with God and the church that a family will raise their child to know God within the body of Christ.

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED BEFORE RECEIVING SALVATION?

Even though the Bible doesn't say we can't be baptized multiple times, this doesn't necessarily mean it's always the right thing.

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward commitment to follow Jesus. It was at Jesus' baptism that the Father affirmed His identity as the Son of God. Before Christ, we as believers were just taking a bath; after Christ, we are cleansed in our conscience and confident in our identity.

It is Jesus' sacrifice that covers your sins, not the baptismal waters. We would encourage you to follow Jesus' footsteps into baptism because you are a disciple of Christ, not just a convert.

CAN I BE BAPTIZED IF I'VE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED BEFORE?

Through the act of baptism, you create a personal memorial and monument that anchors your faith. God provides opportunities such as baptism to demonstrate covenant with Him, and His transformative power in your life, to the family of believers. Baptism among a family of witnesses invites others to be a part of your journey.

We encourage you to pray, ask the Holy Spirit, and seek wise counsel with your spiritual oversight or pastor to discern if being baptized again is appropriate for you and your faith journey with Jesus.

FACILITATOR NOTES

This is a great opportunity to answer a follow-up question someone may have, i.e. "If I was baptized as a child but it was not my own decision, should I be baptized again?" In light of now knowing baptism follows receiving salvation, encourage them to pray and ask the Holy Spirit. It's important we don't answer this for them, but encourage them to seek the Lord.

Even though the Bible doesn't say we can't be baptized multiple times, this doesn't necessarily mean it's always the right thing.

FACILITATOR NOTES

This is a sample explanation: "For me, there was a time when Jesus was my Savior and I was baptized. Many years later, I made Him my Lord. After that life change and full surrender, I clearly heard the Lord say, 'Will you come into the waters of baptism and create a monument unto Me - a line in the sand that from this moment forward, you will never be the same again?'. So I obeyed and was baptized again, and if the Lord would ask me again, I would say yes. Remember, Water Baptism is a threshold of obedience. We don't want to create any doubt in you but are trying to produce a decision that you will make on your own, in your conscience, to follow Jesus' footsteps into the waters of baptism. It's a powerful foundation in your relationship with the Lord.

PART 6: NEXT STEPS

growth*track*

The purpose of Bayside's Growth Track is to help you **Know God, Find Family, Discover Your Purpose, and Live in Freedom**. Join members of your church family to learn more about Bayside, build relationships with each other, and see how God has uniquely designed you to make a difference.



FIRST STEPS

Do you desire to follow Jesus, but aren't sure what that journey looks like? Learn how to have confidence in your relationship with God during our First Steps group, where you'll discover what God has provided for you as a believer. During this group, you'll learn how to grow and develop your faith, who the Holy Spirit is, and what the role of the Church is. Join us if you have a desire to walk with Jesus, find your purpose, and serve others as the hands and feet of Jesus.





MYBAPTISM



www.mybaptism.church