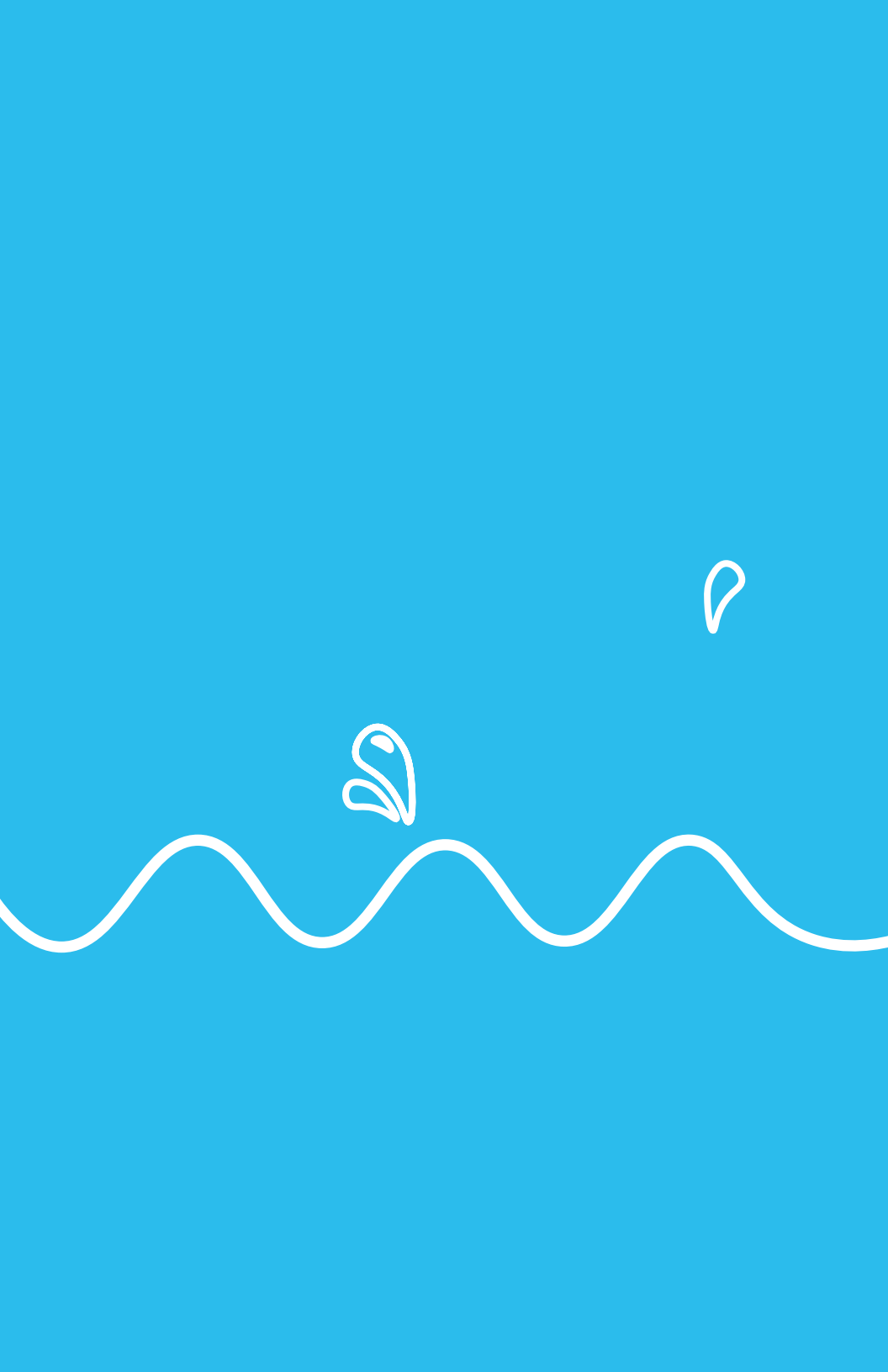




**BAPTISM**



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# L.I.F.E. JOURNALING METHOD

*The Bible journaling method called LIFE Starter was developed to create an easy, yet effective way for people to study the Bible, remember what they read and allow their hearts to get ignited for Jesus Christ.*

**L.I.F.E. stands for Listen, Investigate, Focus and Engage.**

## **L=Listen**

In your journal, write the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, listen to the Holy Spirit and focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal. Writing helps you remember the verses.

## **I = Investigate**

Next, you investigate the context around the Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: Bible Study Tools, or Easy English Bible.

## **F=Focus**

The next step is focusing on the text to make it applicable for your own life. What does the text mean today? What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read? Write out a couple sentences detailing what God is saying to you through the text.

## **E = Engage**

The final step in the journaling process is engaging God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

*The beautiful thing about this journaling method is that it is short and only takes a few minutes, and it can be done every time you read or study a passage.*

# SESSION 1

## Water Baptism

### Session #1 Teaching Water Baptism

We are so excited that you are considering baptism! Every person can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and we encourage you to make a decision to follow Him. Believing in God is not just learning about Him, but walking with Him every day.

Baptism is a spiritual milestone in your life. Baptism as a believer is a decision to celebrate God cleansing away sin (Acts 22:16), and bringing your inner spirit to life (Romans 6:4-5)!

Some of the questions to ask yourself as you consider baptism:

**1. When did you decide to follow Jesus and allow Him to be your Lord and Savior?** You should be able to describe to Jesus has done on the cross and in His resurrection, and that you need Jesus in your life to save you, and to guide you.

**2. What does it mean to be water baptized?** Baptism is to celebrate God bringing to life your spirit. Baptism is a way to celebrate becoming a believer in a public way. A believer's baptism is a picture and celebration of God having cleansed your sins and His bringing your spirit to eternal life!

**3. Why do you want to be water baptized?** Jesus was baptized and He tells His believers to be baptized. As a follower of Jesus, baptism is a way to express, "I'm a follower of Jesus and I want to reveal to others that I surrender to follow Him as my Lord and Savior."

### Review this Water Baptism Devotional:

- Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A follower of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does His will. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did and He told us to follow in this celebration. When you became a follower of Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17. What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?

- **Discuss the Outward Picture:**

***“...Buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12 ESV***

- Water baptism is an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you in your spirit. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means your spirit that has been dead in sin, is brought to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer (1 Corinthians 12:13).

- By going under the water you are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

- **What is water baptism a picture of?**

- **Discuss the Decision of Faith:**

***“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4 ESV***

- Water baptism does not save you. It has purpose and meaning only after a person has decided to follow Jesus and believed in Jesus in their heart and life. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus be in charge of your new spiritual life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

- **When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?**

# SESSION 2

## NEW LIFE

### Session 2 Teaching on New Life in Baptism

When you enter the waters of baptism, you are proclaiming that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and lives again. By joining Him in baptism, you are identifying yourself with Him. Romans 6:4 says you have been buried with Him through baptism into death. Your old life of walking in sin is buried in death. Being raised up out of the water expresses your new life in Jesus Christ and your union with Him. If the meaning of baptism could be boiled down to one word, that word would be identification. Baptism speaks primarily of a personal, public identification with Jesus Christ.

**How important is your baptism?** It is your personal identification with the greatest act of human history—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism doesn't save you—salvation comes by faith alone (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Your guilt before God is removed the moment you trust in Christ. Baptism is your personal testimony to, and the inward assurance of, your passage from the old life to the new life...

### How Baptism Relates to Salvation in Christ:

1. Baptism relates as you bury the old life of sin and raise a new life in Jesus Christ.
2. Baptism relates as you publicly identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
3. Baptism relates as you publicly join other believers who follow Christ.

When you are baptized, you visually preaching the gospel. As you stand in the water waiting to be baptized, (A) you symbolize Jesus dying on the cross. As you are lowered into the water, (B) you symbolize Jesus buried in the tomb. As you are raised from the water, C, you symbolize Jesus rising from the dead. The water of baptism is a symbol of the spiritual cleaning that Jesus offers us (1 Peter 3:21)!

And since you personally are being baptized, you are also saying, "I died with Jesus Christ, I was buried with him and now I am raised with Christ to brand-new life."



In short, in your baptism you are preaching a sermon without using any words at all. And your sermon in your baptism will be more effective with your friends than any sermon the pastor preaches on Sunday morning—more effective because it comes directly from you. Baptism is like a wedding ring. We put on a wedding ring as a symbol of our commitment and devotion. In the same way, baptism is a picture of devotion and commitment to Christ. A wedding ring reminds us and tells others that we belong to someone special. In the same way, baptism reminds us and others that we are devoted to Christ and belong to Him.

Many think, since they were “sprinkled” in Baptism as a child, that there is NO need to be baptized as an adult. **There IS a difference.** Infant baptism arose from the teachings of some early second and third-century church fathers that baptism washed away sin. In their teaching, this meant that if you died without being baptized then you died with your sins unforgiven and thus went to Hell (or purgatory as that concept developed over time). With the high infant mortality rate in the early centuries, the concept of baptizing babies as soon as possible came into vogue. Since it is not necessarily good to push baby heads underwater, the idea of sprinkling took hold. Again, the word baptism does not mean “sprinkle or “pour.” The Greek word “baptizo” literally means to “**dip**” or to “**immerse!**”

We baptize after salvation because that follows every example we have and since baptism pictures how we’ve been saved, it needs to be after that has happened in our lives. **So, in order to take YOUR next steps in your relationship with Jesus Christ, it’s important to take the symbolic step of baptism.**

### **Discuss or Ponder and Review Scripture Before Baptism:**

- **Review Scripture and then ponder or discuss these questions:**

1 Peter 3:21 – “and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ..”

Colossians 2:12 – “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Ephesians 4:4-6 – “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Acts 22:16 – “And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

- **Why is baptism important to you?**
- **What is the meaning of baptism for you?**

**Read & Journal About 1 Peter 3:8-23**

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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**I = Investigate** the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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**F=Focus** to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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**E = Engage** God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

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***Read & Journal About Colossians 2:6-15***

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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**Read & Journal About Ephesians 4:1-16**

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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**I = Investigate** the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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***Read & Journal About Acts 22:1-21***

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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# SESSION 3

## THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

### Session #3 Teaching on The Meaning of Baptism

The name Baptist derived from the emphasis the denomination placed on baptism. Early Baptists called themselves “Churches of Christ,” “those who followed the baptized way,” and “God’s free people,” among other names. But the term “Baptist” remained, and it was incumbent upon Baptists to understand fully their position.

Purcellville Baptist Church believes that baptism is a rich symbol, meaning that baptism in itself does not convey salvation or transformation, but it is a sign of what has happened in a spiritual sense to a new believer. The water used in baptism is not sacred but is a vehicle to enhance the symbolism of spiritual washing or regeneration. As a symbol, baptism conveys several levels of meaning for a Christian believer. In a most profound sense, it pictures in vivid form the gospel of Christ itself. As the apostle wrote in Romans 6:3-4, a believer is said to be buried into Christ’s death, buried with Christ, and raised to new life in Christ. Theologically, as salvation is a gift of God, not through human achievement, and faith itself is a gift, baptism is God’s gift to the Church to allow the faithful a means of expressing their faith and gratitude for God’s redemptive work. By choosing a public baptism, the believer affirms personal commitment to God in Christ and the expressed faith of the congregation. And, by being immersed, the candidate professes an adoption of the gospel in personal life. Typically, adults, youth, or older children who understand the commitment of faith to Christ and wish to respond to God’s call are acceptable candidates for baptism.

Believer’s baptism has also been understood among Baptists as a sign of obedience to Christ. As Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan (Matt. 3:13-17), similarly each follower of the Lord should be baptized. Jesus also said in his “Great Commission” (Matt. 28:19, 20) that disciples should go forth teaching and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Baptism is a seal on important promises. In being baptized a believer is assured that sins are forgiven (though not in the act of baptism itself), and that we are participants in God’s kingdom. Further, by identifying with the death and burial of Christ, baptism assures us that we shall likewise see the resurrection and eternal life (Titus 3:5-7). Finally, because Jesus

commanded that baptism should be conducted to the end of the age, baptism becomes a seal of the promise that Christ will return to claim his people (Matt. 28:20).

The relationship of water baptism to the Holy Spirit has also received attention among Baptists over the centuries. Fundamentally, early Baptists believed that upon believer's baptism, each believer received the Holy Spirit, as in Acts 10:47. This meant that the Holy Spirit indwelt believers. Some symbolically laid hands on the baptized believers to signify the coming of the Spirit into that person's life (Acts 8:17). Generally speaking, Baptists did not connect the New Testament passages about the baptism of the Holy Spirit that manifested itself with extraordinary gifts of the Spirit with water baptism. However, in recent years under the influence of the charismatic movement, significant minorities of Baptists do claim to have been baptized with water and then, as a separate act, with the Holy Spirit. This has produced manifestations like prophesying and speaking in spiritual languages (Acts 19:2-6).

Finally, at PBC, we feel there is an important connection between baptism and relationship with our local congregation. In the New Testament church, baptism led to fellowship and communion with other believers (Acts 16:15), as well as being part of "Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:26-29, ESV).

Believer's baptism is always a voluntary act of the individual, in response to God's grace. Baptism is related to religious liberty and soul freedom as an entirely voluntary act that allows a person to profess personal faith. Baptism is inextricably tied to mission as it vividly portrays the gospel and fulfills Jesus' Great Commission for all true disciples. Most importantly, baptism cannot be separated from one's doctrine of Christ, since Christ himself was baptized and his redemptive work is depicted in baptism by immersion as a new relationship in Christ which all believers enjoy.

## **Discuss or Ponder and Review Scripture Before Baptism:**

• **Please read through the following information AGAIN to understand God's plan for water baptism and to prepare for your water baptism:**

1.It was instituted by God, for born again believers in Jesus Christ, to identify them as obedient followers of Jesus Christ. (Matt 28:19, Acts 2:38,41, Col 2:9-12)

2.Baptism is complementary (not supplementary) of the salvation experience. Salvation is a totally free gift of God and depends on no action on the part of the seeker, other than to express faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sin, cleansing from its penalty, and the gift of eternal life. (Eph 2:8-9, Gal 3:26-27)

3.Just as being saved/born again is an act that occurs once, believer's baptism is meant to be celebrated once and does not need to be repeated. All born again believers in Jesus Christ are encouraged (expected) to participate in this once in a lifetime act of obedience. (Acts 2:36-41, Rom 6:1-11)

4.Baptism is celebrated in the work of the Trinity as shown in the Bible: in the "name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit". (Matt 28:19-20)

5.Only a person who has placed their trust in Jesus Christ is to be baptized. Baptism involves a conscious decision by the believer to be obedient to God's command. (Acts 8:26-38, Acts 2:41)

6.Baptism is done by completely immersing the body into water. (Col 2:11-12)

7. Read the following Bible verses in preparation for baptism:

- **Mark 1: 1-11**
- **Matthew 3: 11**
- **Luke 12: 59-53**
- **Romans 5: 1-3**
- **Romans 6: 1-14**
- **Galatians 3: 26-27**
- **Colossians 2:9 - 3:17**
- **1 Peter 3: 18-22**



# SESSION 4

## PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

### Session #4 Teaching on Baptism Prep

1. Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and read info at:  
<https://www.purbap.org/baptism>

2. Choose to be baptized any Sunday, or sign up by emailing Pastor Kevin Cole at: [kcole@purbap.org](mailto:kcole@purbap.org)

3. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Kevin Cole in the church office at [540-338-6400](tel:540-338-6400) or [kcole@purbap.org](mailto:kcole@purbap.org).

### Water Baptism Service Details

Water Baptisms are usually done during the Sunday Service – after the sermon. You are encouraged to invite your friends and family to the service so they can be a part of this important event.

**Here is the general flow of the baptism service:** A pastor will give a short description of why we do water baptism. Each person being baptized will invited into the baptismal pool one at a time.

- A pastor will ask you if you've accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
- A pastor will pray for you.
- You will be baptized by full immersion.

### What to bring to the service:

- Friends and family!
- We have towels for drying off and a change of clothes for you to be baptized in.

### Check out other PBC Life Foundations Studies:

- KNOW GOD – SALVATION
- KNOW GOD – SABBATH
- FIND FREEDOM – FORGIVENESS
- FIND FREEDOM – FAITH OVER FEAR
- FIND FREEDOM – OVER NEGATIVE THINKING
- DISCOVER PURPOSE – FINDING GOD'S PURPOSE
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE – SERVING GOD

# BONUS SESSION

## WATER BAPTISM & YOUNG CHILDREN

### Bonus Session Teaching on Water Baptism & Young Children

We are so excited that you are considering baptism for your child! Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and we encourage them to make a decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged to not just learn about Jesus, but learn from Him by walking with Him every day. We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of seven can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older. The Bible does not describe a specific age, but describes baptism as a believer's decision to celebrate God cleansing away sin, and bringing the inner spirit to life! If your child is not quite old enough to make this decision on their own, this could be a great start to an ongoing conversation and teaching with your son or daughter!

As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child. The following answers show that your child understands.

#### **1. When did you decide to follow Jesus and become His forever friend?**

Your child should be able to describe to you their understanding of what Jesus did, that he or she understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.

**2. What does it mean to be water baptized?** Baptism is to celebrate what God has done in your spirit. Baptism is a way to celebrate "I'm a Christian and I want to show the world." It's a picture and celebration of what Jesus has done on the inside.

**3. Why do you want to be water baptized?** Jesus was baptized and He tells His believers to be baptized. As a friend of Jesus, baptism is a way to express, "I'm a friend of Jesus and I want to follow Him."

## **Your Child is Not Ready**

If you don't feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. We'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with your child and spur them on in their personal friendship with Jesus.

## **Your Child is Ready**

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then we'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with them.

## **Review this Water Baptism Devotional with your child:**

### **Obeying Jesus' Commandment**

***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 ESV***

- Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A friend of Jesus does not just learn about Jesus, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did and He told us to also. When you became a friend of Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' guidance. That means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too. Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?

### **Discuss the Outward Picture:**

***"...Buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:12 ESV***

- Water baptism is an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! When you asked Jesus to be your forever friend, there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit as you prayed the prayer (I Corinthians 12:13).

- By being baptized, you are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.
- ***What is water baptism a picture of?***

**Discuss the Decision of Faith:**

***“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4 ESV***

- Water baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after a person has decided to follow Jesus and invited Jesus into their heart and life. But water baptism is a very important step in your new Christian life. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord.
- When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?

