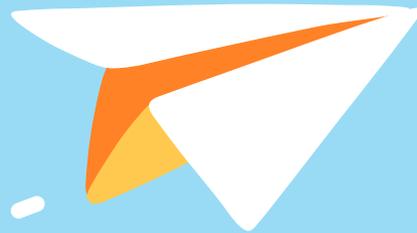




# baptism

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND KIDS



# pre-flight information:

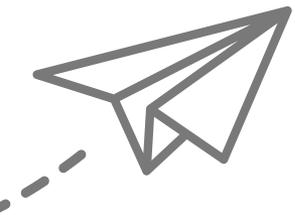
*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19*

Congratulations, your child is asking about baptism. This is GREAT NEWS because it means your child’s faith is growing and they are ready to tell others about their FOREVER FRIEND, Jesus. Of course, you want to be able to talk to your kids about baptism, but you may not know where to start. That’s where we come in.

CT Kids is excited to be a partner with you and your kids, but we don’t want to steal this teaching opportunity from you. Instead, we want to best equip you to be the primary spiritual leader in your home.

## **That said, here are a few tips for how to use this booklet:**

- The activities are meant to be done with your kiddo.
- The activities will help you do two things with confidence:
  - 1) Teach your child about the relationship between salvation and baptism
  - 2) Determine if your child is ready for baptism, or if he/she should wait a bit longer



# Frequently asked questions

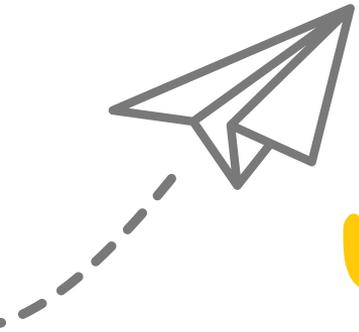
**Do you have questions? Good NEWS! You don't have to be a Bible scholar to teach your kids spiritual things! So here are some FAQ's about baptism. (Look over these before you sit down with your kiddo.)**

**1. Who should be baptized?** Answer: Everyone who puts their faith in Christ! Anyone who confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord should be baptized. **What does the Bible say?** Jesus told us to baptize his disciples (followers) "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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...'" – Matthew 28:18-20

**2. Does a person have to be baptized to be saved?** Answer: Nope. Although there is no excuse not to be baptized, nothing can be added to faith as the one saving act. Faith in Christ alone saves us. Anything else is called "works based righteousness," and that is not how salvation works- it is in faith alone! **So why do we baptize?** It's an outward sign of an inward commitment of faith: "When they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip..." - Acts 8:12

**3. What if my child was baptized as a baby?** Answer: We would view that as a "dedication," not a "baptism." They are different. Baptism is a choice after someone has prayed and invited Jesus into their hearts as their savior. If your child has placed their faith in Jesus Christ, they can be baptized as a sign of their faith. **So what's the difference?** Dedication is a parent choice, Baptism is the child's choice to show others their faith. "Those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." – Acts 2:41

**4. What if someone is baptized, but does not stay close to Jesus? Should they be re-baptized?** Answer: Nope. Not needed. Each person will be left to make their own choices about how they live as a follower of Jesus, but they never have to be re-baptized. It is a one-time event. Explain this to your child so they understand their choice and are ready to be baptized. **Bottom Line:** Baptism is a symbol of one's understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus.: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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 6:2-4



# what's in your carry-on?

## UNPACK WHAT YOU KNOW

So, you have some questions about baptism! That means you are starting out on a faith journey that will last a lifetime. Let's make sure you have all the information you need before you take off on this amazing path leading to baptism. The best place to start is to see what you already know.

Let's unpack some basic knowledge about salvation and baptism. Grab some yummy treats, find a comfy spot and sit down with one of your favorite adults so you can talk about these questions:

### **Remember, take your time and work through these together:**

What is the Bible? What do you know about it?

What's your favorite story in the Bible?

What happened with Adam & Eve? What did they do?

Has everyone sinned? What about really nice people?

Can you remember any sins you've done?

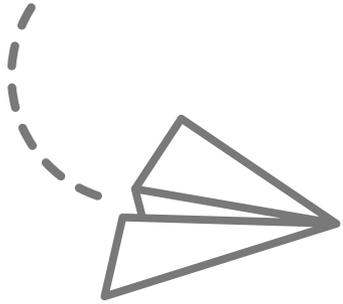
What happens to people who sin?

What did God do to rescue us and forgive us of sin?

How do we get forgiveness from God? Do we just have to be really good to make God happy?

When we go to church, we sing... why?

What questions do you have about the Bible? What is confusing to you?



# check your boarding pass

## ONE WAY TO SALVATION

Wow! You are flying through these questions and you know a lot. Take a break, recline your seat and listen for a minute about an incredible FREE GIFT!

You probably know that God loves you! But do you know just how much?

God Loves you so much, He decided to make it possible for you to be with Him in Heaven FOREVER- through the free gift of salvation! Being with God forever in Heaven sounds perfect, but you might want to know more about how to get this gift of Salvation.

Here is the great news about Salvation- it is not something you can buy, work for, or earn. Salvation is a gift from God. The Bible says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast."- Ephesians 2:8. You see, God has already done everything needed for you to have salvation.

**AMAZING FACT:** When Jesus died on the cross, that's when the great price was paid for your salvation. You could never do enough good works to repay God for the price He paid so you could have everlasting life and forgiveness of your sins.

So, if you have prayed to ask Jesus to be your FOREVER FRIEND because you believe He lived and died to save you from sin- you already have salvation! He gives us "...the gift of God [that] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 6:23b.

If you have not asked Him to be your Forever Friend, you can right now. You can pray a prayer like this one:

*"Dear God, I am a sinner and I need You to save me. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I ask You to become the Lord of my life, to live in my heart from this day forward. Please send Your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. Amen."*

# who is flying This plane?

## TAKING FLIGHT WITH JESUS

Congratulations! There is a HUGE celebration going on in Heaven, "...there is more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent" -Luke 15:7. When you or anyone prays to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend, they become part of God's family, His team! They are called Christians.

Now, like any team, we practice so we can get stronger and stronger. Let's make it easy and use the ABC's of Salvation as part of our routine. Put these ABC's to use and start to share them with others and you will be a powerful part of God's family.

A - Admit that you sin and turn to God - "But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."- I John 1:9

B - Believe that Jesus died for you - "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved."- Romans 10:9

C - Confess that Jesus is Lord - "Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does."- John 1:12-13

**AMAZING FACT:** God always loved you, but the day you loved Him back by accepting Him into your heart you became a new creation. It's AWESOME and TRUE! The Bible tells us, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." – I John 3:1. It has always been His desire that you learn about the saving grace He has for you and what it means to be a Christian so you can grow up and live the rest of your life with a heart like Jesus.



# your flight crew

## TAKING OFF AS A NEW CREATION

You are soaring now! Look at where you've been - you started this journey answering questions about what you knew, you learned about the free gift of salvation, and you had an opportunity to accept salvation and put all your trust in Jesus. The last part of our journey helps us see how salvation and baptism are connected.

Remember that once someone asks Jesus into their heart, they are a new creation - Team God, 4EVER!

Now, if you have ever been on a team, you know that you wear a jersey or a uniform to show you belong to that team. God knew that we would be so excited about being part of His family that we'd want some way to show others; but we don't wear a jersey or have uniforms...we have something EXTRA SPECIAL called BAPTISM.

A cool part about being on God's team is you will never be benched! God waits for you to be ready, so you choose when you are ready to show others your faith commitment through baptism.

### **So, take your time and focus on these truths about BAPTISM:**

B- Baptism does not get you into Heaven – Ephesians 2:8-9

A- Act of obedience – Matthew 28:19

P- Picture of Christ's death, burial and resurrection - Colossians 2:12

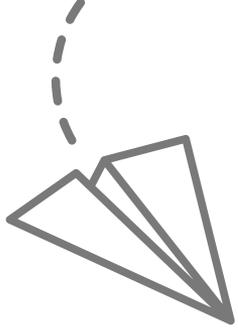
T- Those who believe in Jesus should be baptized – Romans 3:23

I- Identifies you with Christ – Romans 6:4

S- Symbol of belief – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

M- Must be underwater – Matthew 3:16

**AMAZING FACT:** The only way to Heaven is to believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. Hold tight to this truth. God loves you so much that He gave His only Son. The love He has for you is the strongest love you will ever know and has no end!! Baptism is our way to celebrate His INCREDIBLE love for us as we begin our new life in Him.



# holding pattern

## ARE YOU READY FOR BAPTISM?

Take a flight-break and read through these questions and pick the best answer. Try this part on your own.

### 1. Being baptized is which of the following:

- a) something all kids do
- b) for all kids whose parents go to church
- c) for kids & adults who have decided to follow Jesus
- d) for kids who are really nice

### 2. Baptism is when you:

- a) go to church and pray to God with others
- b) get put under water because you love Jesus
- c) sing worship songs
- d) turn 9 years old

### 3. Jesus said that people should get baptized:

- a) in order for God to love you more
- b) because you can't go to Heaven if you don't
- c) even if you're unsure about it
- d) to show others that you want to follow Him forever

### 4. I am ready to get baptized if:

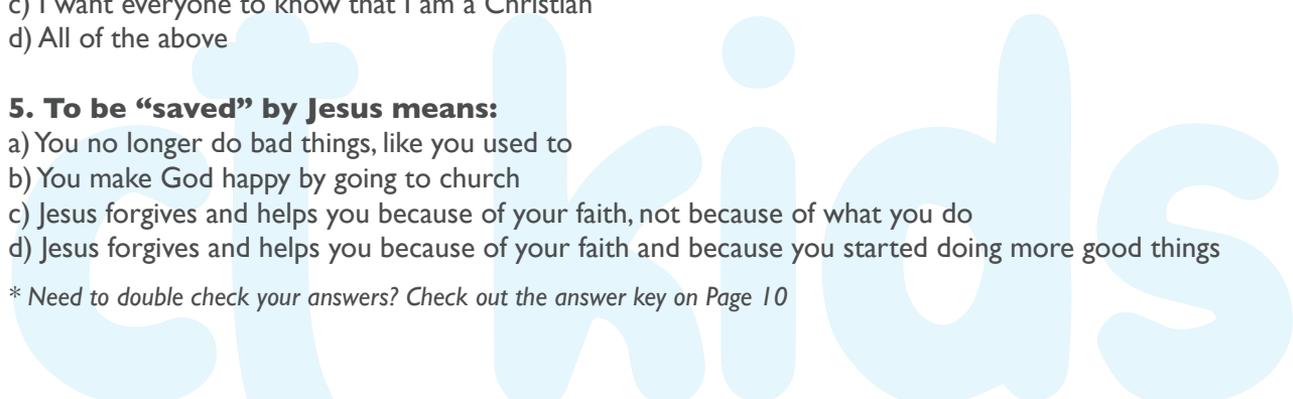
- a) I believe that Jesus died & came back to life
- b) I trust Jesus has washed away my sins
- c) I want everyone to know that I am a Christian
- d) All of the above

### 5. To be "saved" by Jesus means:

- a) You no longer do bad things, like you used to
- b) You make God happy by going to church
- c) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith, not because of what you do
- d) Jesus forgives and helps you because of your faith and because you started doing more good things

7

\* Need to double check your answers? Check out the answer key on Page 10

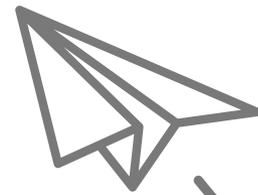


# let's land this plane

## ARRIVING AT A DECISION

That's it! You have all the information you need to make a decision about baptism. Read the questions and jot down your answers.

1. Do you want to be baptized?      **YES**      **NO**
2. If yes, why do you want to be baptized?
3. What does it mean to be a Christian?
4. When did you become a Christian?
5. Why did you say yes to following Him and loving Him?
6. Do you believe that Jesus has saved you from your sin?
7. Do you promise to follow Jesus for the rest of your life?



Please share what you have written here with a trusted adult. Once you have talked through all the questions and your answers, please contact one of the CT Kids pastors to let them know what you decided. Either way, we look forward to helping you navigate your decision.

# stand-by or direct flight?

## WHAT NOW?

Whether your child is ready for baptism or not is always left up to the discretion of the adults in that child's life- you are their spiritual leader. As stated before, we want to be a resource and support for you, here are a few things to consider before taking the next step.

Does your child truly grasp the weight of sin?

Does he/she understand Jesus's sacrifice to clear them of that sin?

Have you prayerfully considered your child's faith, and do you feel like baptism is the next step of their faith? Or should they wait?

Are you convinced your child is making this decision because of their own faith, not because of pressure they feel from you or the church? Still not sure? We're here to help. Contact us at 940-240-5100 or email us at <https://crosstimberschurch.org/contact-us/> to speak with a member of our CT Kids Staff.

# resource list

## **Digital Resources:**

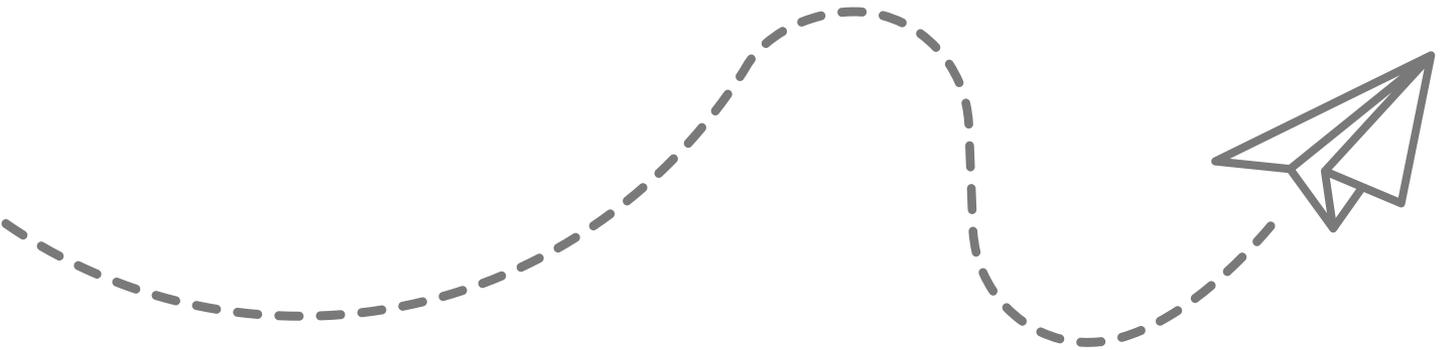
CT Kids website: <https://crosstimberschurch.org/ministry/ct-kids/>

Parent Cue: <https://theparentcue.org/>

Bible App: <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>

## **Family Resource Walls:**

Check out your CT Kids campus for recommended books, God-Time cards, and other take-aways to help equip you to lead at home.



Answer Key: 1. C 2. B 3. D 4. D 5. C

