



WATER BAPTISM



leader's guide
2012

WATERBAPTISM

Leader's Guide

CityBibleChurch 

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●●● CLASS PREPARATION

Date	Task	Completed
Week of	<i>Check with Campus Coordinator to make sure all candidates have been called.</i>	
Week of	<i>Get total of approximate class size.</i>	
Week of	<i>Check with Campus Coordinator to make sure all rooms have been reserved.</i>	
Week of	<i>Make sure other leaders assisting with baptism are aware of the time they need to arrive.</i>	
Week of	<i>Check with Campus Coordinator to make sure a photographer is ready for baptisms.</i>	
Week of	<i>Review baptism teaching notes.</i>	
Day of	<i>Show up early to class and turn on lights and adjust the heat.</i>	
Day of	<i>Make sure there are enough pens and blue baptism cards for the entire class.</i>	
Day of	<i>If needed, rearrange seating for baptism class.</i>	
Day of	<i>Make sure you have extra towels and plastic bags in the room.</i>	
Day of	<i>Confirm with the worship leader/service emcee which song will cue the baptisms.</i>	

●●● CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is based upon an 11am Sunday service.

Time	Task
9:45-10:00am	<i>People arrive to the Baptism Class</i> • Greet each person
10:00am	<i>Begin class</i> • Introduce yourself and your role at the church • Go around the room and ask for names and brief testimonies
10:05am	<i>Explain the process for the day...</i> • Go through baptism notes • Answer any questions • Fill out the blue card • Show everyone the proper baptism position • Encourage each person to lift their hands and begin to worship after coming out of the water. • At end of class (10:45am) all candidates will go to the changing rooms • At 11am candidates will line up and prayer team will begin to pray over each person • On our cue (usually 3rd song) baptisms will begin • Enter and exit from the same side • Once you are baptized, you can change and go back into the service • Pictures and certificate will be mailed to the address on the blue card one month after baptism
10:35am	<i>Ask for any questions - reference FAQ's at end of notebook</i>
10:40am	<i>Pass out blue cards and have everyone fill out entire card</i>
10:43am	<i>Class assistant will collect the cards and put them in order of baptisms</i>
10:45am	<i>Pray and dismiss class to go change</i> • Remind everyone to wait until after baptisms to go see their family



WATER BAPTISM

A STEP OF OBEDIENCE

INTRODUCTION

As a believer in Christ, it is vital that you are obedient to His commands in all areas of your life. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me keep my commandments." Following His ways are foundational to living a healthy, vibrant life in Christ. One of the first steps of obedience is to be water baptized. This important step of faith identifies you with Christ's death, burial and resurrection, signifying your own death to self, burying your past, and rising to live a new life by the power of God's grace.

Mark 16:16 - *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."*

Acts 2:38 - *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"*

Matthew 28:19-20 - *"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..."*

Romans 6:3-4 - *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (NASB)*

**"GOD'S PEOPLE
SHOULD BE
BAPTIZED
BECAUSE GOD
COMMANDED IT,
NOT BECAUSE SOME
CHURCH
REQUIRES IT."
- john. r. rice**

I. DEFINING WATER BAPTISM

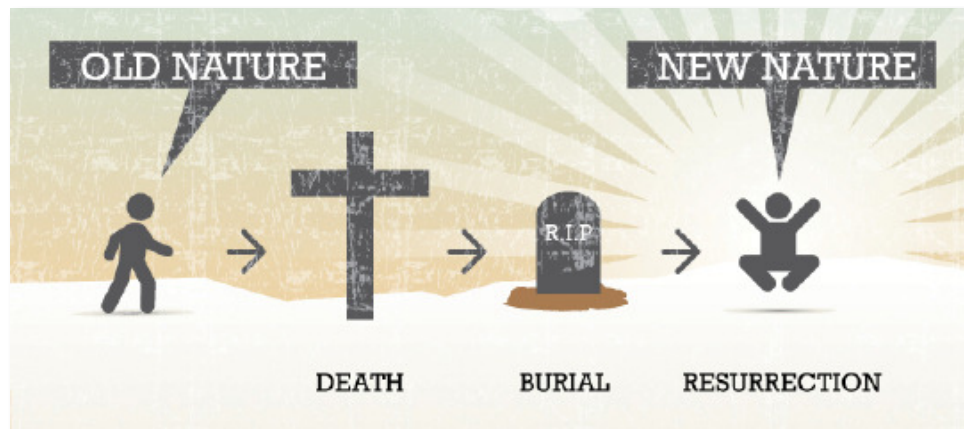
- A. THE WORD "BAPTISM" COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD, "BAPTIZO" AND MEANS TO DIP SOMETHING INTO A FLUID AND THEN TAKE IT OUT OR TO COVER WITH A FLUID.

Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Revelation 19:13

- B. WATER BAPTISM IS DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. A symbolic act that represents the death and burial of the sinful nature. When you go down into the water of baptism you identify with Christ's death and burial. When you come up out of the water you identify with Christ's resurrection.
2. This is a picture showing the process of Christ's death on the cross, His burial and then His resurrection. You too, are to follow His example. You have gone to the cross and allowed your old sin nature and its evil desire to die with Christ on the cross.

"BAPTISM IS OUR SEAL ON THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED BETWEEN US AND GOD."
- pastor frank damazio



C. WATER BAPTISM WAS **INSTITUTED BY JESUS.**

Jesus Himself was baptized in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13). He then commanded all those that follow Him go and make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

D. WATER BAPTISM WAS **PRACTICED BY THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.**

The Apostle Peter told the first century followers, *"each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ..."* (Acts 2:38).

E. WATER BAPTISM IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE **REPENTED OF THEIR SINS** AND ARE NOW BORN AGAIN.

Throughout the Book of Acts, whenever people had accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, they would immediately be baptized in water.

Acts 2:41 - *"Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day - about 3000 in all."*

Acts 8:12 - *"But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized..."*

Acts 18:8 - *"Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized."*

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

II. REASONS TO BE WATER BAPTIZED

A. WATER BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES THE BURIAL OF YOUR OLD SIN NATURE.

Romans 6:3-10; Genesis 8 and 9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Romans 6:3-4 - "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (NASB)

B. WATER BAPTISM SIGNIFIES YOUR WILLINGNESS TO IDENTIFY WITH CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

Romans 6:3-6; John 3:22

C. WATER BAPTISM ACKNOWLEDGES A WILLINGNESS TO OBEY CHRIST.

John 15:14; John 2:5; Matthew 12:50

**"WE SHOULD WANT
TO BE BAPTIZED
SIMPLY BECAUSE HE
HAS TOLD US TO DO
SO AND WE WANT
TO OBEY HIM."
- marc estes**

"And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him." - 1 John 2:3-5 (NLT)

D. WATER BAPTISM SHOWS THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF HEART.

Colossians 2:11-12

- E. WATER BAPTISM IS A **PUBLIC CONFESSION** TO GOD, YOUR CHURCH FAMILY AND THE DEVIL THAT YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.

"This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven." - Mark 1:4 (NLT)

"AS AN OUTWARD TESTIMONY TO THE INWARD REALITY OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US IN SECRET, WE OUTWARDLY DECLARE TO OTHERS OUR DETERMINATION TO FOLLOW CHRIST BY BEING BAPTIZED."
- pastor frank damazio

III. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

a. **When should I be water baptized?**

Once you have begun your new relationship with Jesus, you should make every effort to be baptized as soon as possible.

Acts 22:16 "And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord."

B. **What if I was baptized before?**

This depends on whether you were a Christian at the time of the baptism. If you were a Christian, there is no reason to be baptized again.

c. **What about sprinkling?**

As previously stated, the biblical definition of baptism shows that total immersion was the mode of water baptism instituted by Jesus. Sprinkling has become a 'tradition' in many churches, but it doesn't accurately reflect what Jesus told his followers to do.

d. **What about infant baptism?**

No instance of infant baptism is ever recorded in the Bible. Because an infant cannot repent and have faith as described above, there is no benefit to the child who is baptized. Once a child reaches the age at which he or she can make a decision of faith and repentance, then baptism can take place with significant meaning. As long as the decision to become a Christian is made out of your own initiative and you comprehend repentance and faith.

e. **What if young children want to be baptized?**

Because the Bible teaches that it should be a personal decision of faith following a personal decision to follow Christ, we ask young children to wait until they understand salvation before being baptized. We suggest twelve years of age as the target age.

f. **Is water baptism mandatory?**

The thief who hung on the cross beside Jesus is evidence that salvation is assured without being water baptized. His conversion took place as he was dying, and Jesus promised that he would be in heaven that day even though he had no chance to be baptized. We receive salvation freely by faith and not through our own efforts. However, we should desire to be baptized because Jesus has commanded us to follow Him in this important act of obedience. If you refuse to be baptized, you are being willingly defiant, and this can hinder your relationship with Jesus.

