

## How do I know if my child is ready?

**It is important to make sure your child is ready to be baptized. There is no rush to get baptized as it is not what saves a person from their sins. It is only a next step in following Jesus - a public declaration of the decision they already made to believe and follow Jesus.**

1. Have they communicated that they believe that Jesus is God's Son and died on the cross for their sins?
2. Can they express to you the sins that they have committed in the past? (Parents, this is to make sure they understand what sin is and that they need to be forgiven to have a relationship with God and spend eternity with God in heaven one day.)
3. Have they gone to God in prayer and prayed something to this effect:
  - I know that I sin and am sorry for my sins.
  - I believe that Jesus is God and died on the cross for my sins.
  - Please forgive me for my sins.
  - I want to follow Jesus and do what you want me to do and not what I want to do.
4. Have you seen the Holy Spirit evidenced in their life? This can look like:
  - Recognizing when they do something wrong, they are sorry and seek forgiveness.
  - Initiating a "right" action. Like, noticing when someone needs help.
  - Expressing on their own that they love Jesus, talking about something they learned, telling you a story of something that happened that they felt was God, wanting to learn the Bible, go to church and similar evidence.
  - Seeing growth in their life. Think of the Fruit of the Spirit. Are they getting better at love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?
5. Can your child in his/her own words tell someone about their decision to believe and follow Jesus?
  - What was the decision they made and why?
  - Where were they and who was with them?
  - How should they live now that they have made this decision?

**If you have gone through this list and feel they are not ready, you can still attend the class and schedule their baptism for a future date when they are ready, or you can wait until they are ready and then attend the class.**

**After the class if you feel they are ready, then schedule a meeting with the pastor you have chosen to do the baptism. The pastor will confirm if your child is ready or not.**

Looking forward to being a part of your child's next steps in following Jesus!

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