

Baptism for Kids

At High Desert Church, our goal is to equip parents to be the primary source of discipleship for their kids. As kids and parents navigate the next steps in their faith, we want to help you engage conversations. When it comes to taking the step of baptism, we are relying on you as their parent to know if and when your child is ready. Here are some things to consider before pursuing baptism with your child:

- Does my child need to be baptized to go to heaven? **No.**
- Does my child need to understand baptism and be able to verbalize their personal choice to follow Jesus? **Yes.**

Here are some things to know about the baptism process at HDC:

- Our baptism class is geared towards adults and is taught in a classroom format.
- A parent or guardian must be in attendance with children through 6th grade.
- At this class, we are relying on you as the parent to grasp what baptism is alongside your child and help them make the decision if they are ready to move ahead in the baptism process.
- After the baptism class, you, as the parent, will receive a call from an HDC staff member to discuss next steps for your child.
- They will then fill out an application to be baptized, which includes an explanation of their testimony and how their life has been changed by Jesus.
- Someone from our HDC ministry team will reach out to you to schedule an interview where your child can discuss their testimony and understanding of salvation.
- If the HDC team member feels that your child is ready to be baptized, they will work with you to schedule the time and place for their baptism.
- If, after meeting with a member of our HDC team, we feel that it would be beneficial for your child to wait to be baptized, we will continue to partner with you as your child continues to develop their understanding of salvation and baptism.

Here are some conversation starters and questions that you can use to have a deeper conversation with your child about baptism.

First, talk about salvation. Baptism shows we follow Jesus. If your child hasn't made the choice to follow Jesus with their heart and life, it's not time for baptism yet. If you'd like some pointers on talking to your child about salvation, read through our HDC Kids God's Amazing Story booklet.

Have conversations about baptism. The only way to understand baptism is to talk about it and see what the Bible has to say. Here are a few conversation starters, some simple answers, and helpful Bible references you can use to help your child explore what baptism is all about.

What do you think baptism is? Baptism shows everyone we made a decision on the inside to follow Jesus. (Acts 8:12)

Why do people who follow Jesus get baptized? Jesus chose to be baptized, so we are following His example. Jesus also tells us to be baptized to show we follow Him, so we are obeying His directions. (Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:18-20)

Why do we go under water when we're baptized? Going under the water and coming up again is a symbol that shows we believe Jesus died and came back to life three days later. It shows we understand that our old self that followed sin is dead. Now we're living a new life following Jesus. (Romans 6:3-5)

If baptism shows our old sinful life is dead, why do people still sin after they get baptized? We should live in a way that doesn't choose sin. But, since we still live in human bodies, we struggle with sin even when our hearts and minds want to live God's way. (Romans 6:1-2, Romans 7:21-23)

When you sin, do you need to get baptized again? No. Remember, your baptism isn't taking your sins away. It's showing the world you've decided to follow Jesus. When you sin again, tell Jesus what you did, ask Him to forgive you, and He will. (John 10:27-29, 1 John 1:9)

Pray with your child. Let your child lead part of your prayer time. Encourage them to talk to God about baptism and to share with Him any questions or ideas they have.

Pray God will reveal Himself to your child so they can truly understand what salvation and baptism are all about. Trust God to reveal to you whether or not your child is ready to be baptized.

Whether your child is ready for baptism or not, celebrate the opportunities you have taken to disciple them. God will tend and water the seeds you have planted so that your child's salvation and baptism will come at just the right time.

Have questions? Please reach out to us at kids@highdesertchurch.com.