

LEADING YOUR CHILD THROUGH  
**SALVATION  
& BAPTISM**



## Parents.

We are excited you are exploring salvation and baptism with your child. A saving relationship with Jesus and the obedient act of baptism are two deeply spiritual and personal milestones on each person's faith journey. When we support the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of another, this moment of surrender and obedience becomes a defining moment in the life of a believer.

So let's dive in and explore how you can play your part!

A wonderful tool we use to share the gospel message with children is

# THE ABCs of SALVATION

**Admit** honestly to God that you have sinned (made mistakes) and disobeyed Him.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."  
Romans 3:23

"The wages of sin is death." (everlasting punishment)  
Romans 6:23

"All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way." Isaiah 53:6

**Believe** that Jesus died on the cross + rose again. His blood was shed to pay for your sins.

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day..."  
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16

**Confess** Jesus is the one true God + you are choosing to follow Him for the rest of your life.

"But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
Romans 10:13

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God's judgement."  
Romans 8:1

"He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned."  
John 3:18

# STEP 1 • LEADING YOUR CHILD INTO A SAVING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS

Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus! At Northwoods Community Church, we encourage each child to make the decision to follow Jesus. We expose children to the idea of salvation regularly at church. We also advise parents to learn how to share salvation with their children so that when a child wants to ask Jesus into their heart, parents are ready to guide them into a saving relationship with Jesus.

**When you trust in Jesus alone to save you, God forgives you! You become His child, and He promises you a home in heaven forever! Put your trust in Jesus as your Savior from sin. Do it today and begin following Him by obeying His word, the Bible.**

Becoming a part of the family of God is a very simple act that children as young as 5 or 6 can understand. The following are some questions you can ask your child to help you understand if you child has already asked Jesus into their heart.

*Let your child answer in their own words, but the ideas expressed should match the written answer.*

## Can you tell me who Jesus is?

Jesus is God's son, and He died on the cross to pay for our mistakes. He rose from the dead on the third day and now lives with God.

## What has Jesus done for us?

Jesus loves us, and He died on the cross to pay for our mistakes. He made a way for us to be a part of God's family... He saved us!

## Can you tell me about the time you asked Jesus into your heart or decided to become a follower of Jesus?

### What is our role as parents and mentors/influencers?

- Trust God
- Come alongside what the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of a child

When we fail to trust God, we tend to try and take control of the process ourselves. This leads to confusion or a lack of understanding what they are doing and why. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to work in the life of a child and call them to confession and salvation. We have the beautiful role to offer assistance through instruction and encouragement.

### Some of the *wrong* reasons for childhood salvation:

- My child is old enough, they should "make a decision" for Christ.
- Other children their age are
- It's a rite of passage
- My child knows all the right answers
- I'm worried about their eternal security

## STEP 2: WATER BAPTISM - WHEN IS MY CHILD READY?

After coming into a saving relationship our **next step** on our journey with Christ is to be baptized. Baptism is an act of obedience and a demonstration to others that you are a follower of Jesus. Baptism doesn't need to happen immediately after giving your life to Christ. The time between salvation and baptism is a good time for children to learn and grow in relationship with Jesus.

We advise parents to **wait until their child is asking** to be water baptized before considering baptism. If your child is asking to be baptized, here are some questions to ask with answers that show your child understands.

### When did you decide to follow Jesus?

Your child should have a specific memory of when they understood what Jesus did and that they need Jesus in their life. It could have been at church, at camp, at home, or anywhere else - and even alone.

### What does it mean to be water baptized?

It tells everyone I am a follower of Jesus and I'm a Christian. It's a picture of what Jesus has done on the inside of me. Baptism is a symbol of Christ dying on the cross, being buried in the tomb and being raised from the dead.

### Why do you want to be water baptized?

Because Jesus was baptized and he tells us to be baptized also. I want to follow Jesus and He is my friend. I want everyone to know I am a follower of Christ. I'm on God's team.

Some of the things Water Baptism *doesn't* do:

- Save us
- Get us into heaven
- Wash away sin or mistakes

Some of the **wrong** reasons to be baptized:

- My child is old enough, they should be baptized
- We are doing this as a family
- Their friend or sibling is getting baptized
- They want to do what someone else did
- I'm worried about their eternal security
- It's a rite of passage
- My child knows all the correct answers.

It is important to not rush children into baptism because we interpret interest as belief. It is our role to guide and encourage what God is doing in the life of a child. We can't make someone a Christian. The decision to be baptized is a deeply personal and spiritual act to declare publicly that they are a follower of Jesus.

Northwoods strongly recommends all children considering baptism attend the Discoveryland Baptism Class with their parents. This class will help the parent and child understand salvation and baptism, evaluate whether the child is ready for baptism, and provide the details of the baptism service.

If you have further questions, contact your Discoveryland Ministry Leader, Campus Pastor, or call the Discoveryland office.

**GOD** *so* **LOVED** *the world*  
**THAT HE GAVE**   
**his** **ONE AND ONLY**  
**son.**

**ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM**

*Will not die but will have*  
**eternal life**

**JOHN 3:16**