BAPTISM 101

HELLO
my name is

I am working on this journal with:

We started on:

We finished on:

What?

This journal is designed for inquisitive kids and awesome parents who want to discover what the Bible has to say about baptism.

By the time you have finished this booklet you will be experts in the subject of baptism. Well... maybe not experts, but you'll know enough to feel confident about what baptism truly is.

Discuss:

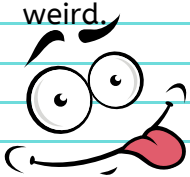
Have you ever seen a baptism?
What did you notice?

ORDER

Some things have to be done in order. Well, not everything. When I wake up in the morning, I have a very particular order that I follow.

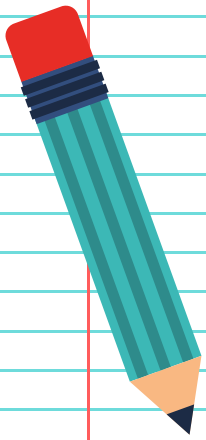
The first thing I do is brush my teeth. For some reason, I just can't stand taking a shower with stinky breath. Would it really matter if I changed this order? Would it make any difference if I took a shower first and then brushed my teeth second?

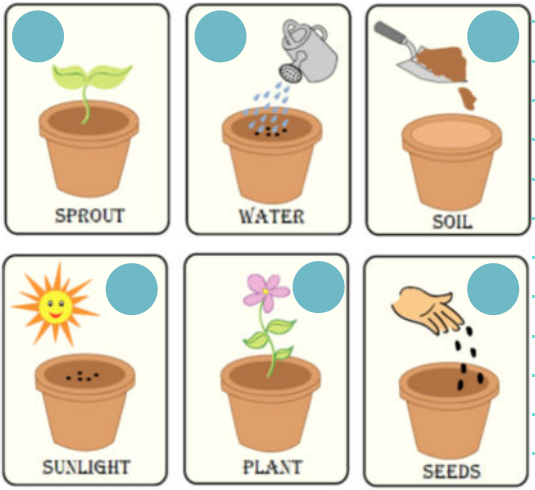
With other things, order really does matter! I always put on my socks before I put on my shoes. What would happen if I switched this order? You know, if you had a big enough pair of socks, you could probably put your socks on over your shoes, but that would be weird.



Absolutely weird. Why? Because there is an order to putting on your shoes and socks.

Number this process in the correct order:





Likewise, there is an order in getting baptized. Baptism is part of a spiritual process and it is NOT the first step.

Discuss:

What do you think is the very important thing someone needs to do before they are baptized?

STEP 1

look up some verses in the Bible to make sure you have the right answer. Grab your Bible and read these verses out loud together.

- [ ] **Acts 8:12**
- [ ] **Acts 18:8**
- [ ] **Acts 19:4-5**

So, why were all these people getting baptized?

yes These people have heard the story about who Jesus was, what he had done and they believed. They decided to follow what Jesus said and were then baptized.

Making a commitment to follow Jesus is number one. It's the most important thing we will EVER do. We get baptized not just after, but BECAUSE we have chosen to follow him.

? If you are supposed to get baptized because you've chosen to follow Jesus and you get baptized before you've chosen to follow Jesus, does that make any sense at all?

No. It's like putting socks on over your shoes. Sure, you can do it. You can get dunked under water, but it doesn't really mean anything. So, let's look at this first step a little closer.

NAMES

When you're around church and Christians, you may hear a lot of other words similar to those of "following Jesus."

Circle the words or phrases you have heard before:

Following Jeus

Making Jesus Lord of Your Life

Becoming a Christian

Becoming a Disciple

Making Jesus Your Forever Freind

Getting Saved

Asking Jesus into Your Heart

Being a Believer

There's a lot of different words to describe the same thing, a Christ Follower. So, becoming a Christ Follower is step one.

You may or may not already be a Christian, but you are going to explore how to become a Christ Follower as you look through the Bible.

Discuss:

If someone asked why they need Jesus what would you say?

If someone asked you how to become a Christian what would you say?

DIG IN

The ABC's of becoming a Christian

Admit: Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23

For _____ have _____ and fall short of the _____ of _____.

Believe: Believe that Jesus is God's son.

John 3:16

For _____ so loved the _____ that he _____ his one and only _____, that whoever believes in _____ shall not _____ but have eternal _____.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, " I am the _____and the _____ and the _____. No one comes to the _____ except through ____."

Confess: Confess that Jesus is Lord.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you _____ with your mouth, "_____ is _____," and believe in your _____ that God raised him from the dead, you _____ be _____."

Who makes mistakes?

Who is Jesus?

Who is in charge of a Christian's life?

ABC

Admit: Admit that you are a sinner.

We all make mistakes. Every one of us has and will continue to make mistakes. We sometimes do what we want to do, even when we know it is wrong. That is sin. The first step is to admit that we are a sinner. You can't be forgiven of your sins if you don't admit that you are a sinner first.

Believe: Believe that Jesus is God's son.

This one is a little more self explanatory. We have to believe that Jesus is who he says he is. Jesus said that he was the son of God. He also said that he is the way to God. He also said that he can forgive our sins. Are you seeing this? First we have to realize and admit that we are sinners and then we have to believe that Jesus is the solution to our problem, the savior of sinners like us.

Confess: Confess that Jesus is Lord.

This last one is a little tricky. It has two big words. Confess means to say with your mouth. So we are to say with our mouth that Jesus is Lord. Wait a second, what does the word Lord mean? I don't use that word in my normal every day talk. Lord basically means "someone who is in charge." Like a king.

So, let's break this last one down. We are to say with our mouth that Jesus is in charge. What is he in charge of? He is in charge of our lives. This is a big deal. We're not just flippantly thinking "Jesus, you're lord... whatever that means." No, we are publically saying to other people that Jesus is in charge of your life. This is a big deal.

Discuss:

How do we know that God loves us?

What did Jesus do for us?

If Jesus is your Lord, what do your actions look like?

Why do you want to follow Jesus?

WHY

Read these verses and answer the following questions:

Matthew 3:16-17

Who was baptized in this passage?

Matthew 28:19-20

Who did Jesus say should be baptized?

Why we get baptized:

Jesus got baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), so we follow his example. His life was worth following, so we follow him in baptism too.

Jesus told us to get baptized (Matthew 28:19-20). The very last thing Jesus told his disciples was to go out, tell others about him and baptize them.

Those people then did the same as did the people after that. This happened over and over and over and over until finally we have been told about Jesus. Now that we too believe in Jesus, it is time for us to be baptized. So, you getting baptized is following a command that Jesus gave you.

What Baptism is NOT:

Baptism is not how you get to heaven. A lot of people think it is. Remember, baptism is something you do as a result of following Christ.

Baptism does not wash away your sin. There is no special soap in the water to take away your desire to punch your brother or sister. Some people think that if they could just get baptized, it will wash away their sin and they won't do bad things anymore.

Baptism is a symbol.

SIGN

Connect the symbol to what it stands for:

America

Jesus

Marriage

Stop

A symbol is something that stands for something else. It is one thing that represents another.

So, that leads to the million dollar question. If baptism is a symbol, what does it represent?

Romans 6:3-5

"Or don't you know that _____ of us were _____ into _____ were baptized into his _____? We were therefore _____ with him through _____ into _____ in order that, just as Christ was _____ from the _____ through the glory of the _____, we too may _____ a new _____. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will _____ also be _____ with him in his resurrection. "

Baptism is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus AND your decision to follow Christ.

Baptism is the outward sign of an inward change.

TESTIMONY

Spend time together discussing and answering the following questions. By the end you will have written a testimony. A testimony is simply the story of how you became a Chrstian.

How were you like every other non-Christian before Jesus was lord of your life?

When did you first learn about Jesus? How did you react?

Why did you finally decide to accept Christ and give him control of your life?

How is your life different now? What has changed?