

Elementary Equipping

How to confidently care for kids

HOW TO TALK WITH KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM

Several kids in elementary school start seeing baptisms happen on Sunday mornings which can lead many to start asking questions and show an interest in getting baptized themselves. When parents or kids start asking questions, we want you to know the heart and process here with Watermark Kids.

BAPTISM AT WATERMARK

*We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which are to be observed by believers until He returns ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)).

We believe by water baptism a believer is publicly identified with his Savior and that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord but should not be baptized until they can personally articulate their faith and the purpose of baptism.*

PROCESS FOR BAPTISM

If a child in your small group asks questions or says they want to be baptized, what should you do?

- First off, we want to loop parents in so that they can be disciple markers in the process.
 - You can inform the parent that their child was talking about baptism and ask if their child has ever talked to them about baptism before. Inform and encourage parents to go to Watermark.org/baptism. There they can read the Watermark Blog "How Do I Know if My Child is Ready for Baptism?"
 - Also, don't assume that the parent knows about Baptism and have taken that step of obedience themselves- this could be an opportunity to share about baptism with a parent.
 - If they have questions, a Watermark Kids staff member would be happy to talk more about it with them.
 - If after reading the article, they think their child might be ready to take the next step, they can fill out the form found on the Watermark.org/baptism page.
- During this meeting time, the staff member is listening for evidence of regeneration, readiness, and the reasons why the child wants to be baptized.

- Some of the questions we may ask to help see if the child seems to show evidence of these areas include:
 - What is baptism? What does it represent? (2 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:4)
 - Why do we get baptized? (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 3:21-22)
 - Does baptism save you? Do you have to be baptized to go to heaven one day? (Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 23:24)
 - What would you say if a friend asked you what it means to be a Christian? (John 3:16; Romans 3:23, 6:23; 8:1; 10:9-10)
 - Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Can you tell me about that decision?
 - How has your life looked different since trusting in Jesus as your Savior?
 - Does this mean that you'll never sin again? What can you do now when you sin? (James 5:16; John 5:24)

CASE STUDY

- A kid asks if you have to be baptized to be a Christian, how would you respond?
- A kid asks why people get baptized; how would you respond?
- When asked if they are a Christian, the kid responds, "Well, I have been baptized?" How would you respond?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Watermark Baptism PDF* (Can google search)
- "How Do I Know if My Child is Ready for Baptism?" Watermark Blogpost
- "The Disciple-Making Parent" Chap Bettis