

Baptism at Kingdom City

Baptism is a significant moment in your journey with Jesus! We are excited you are taking this next step.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or would like to book an appointment with Pastor Greg Wimmer to discuss anything further, please contact Marianne at marianneisfeld@mykingdomcity.ca

■ Frequently Asked Questions

DOES BAPTISM MAKE ME A CHRISTIAN? IS IT THE SAME AS BEING “SAVED”?

No. Only faith in Jesus saves you. Baptism is only for those who have already professed faith in Jesus.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God. —Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

HOW DO I BECOME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

- 1. You need to repent.** Admit that you're a sinner who's rebelled against God and desperately needs His forgiveness—this is repentance.
 - a. The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). We all deserve God's judgment and wrath.
 - b. However, we're also told that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
 - c. So then, “repent... and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19).
- 2. You need to believe.** Belief that Jesus is the Son of God, the One who lived without sin, died for your sin as your substitute, and then rose from the dead three days later as your liberator, is necessary for salvation.
 - a. The Bible says “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)
 - b. If you believe this, then you need to “...declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, [and] you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).
- 3. You need to commit.** Surrender your entire life to Jesus, submitting to His desires for your life, embracing His values, joining Him in His mission, and committing to honor Him in all that you do.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” —Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every Christian should be baptized.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”—Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)

CAN CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED ?

As parents, we can help point our children to Jesus, but they are the ones to decide if they will commit their lives to Him.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. — Romans 10:9 (NIV)

At Kingdom City, we want children to express their own decision to follow Jesus and to truly understand the meaning of baptism. Our current practice is to reserve water baptism for kids who are age 10 and up and to provide the opportunity for kids to learn about water baptism and its meaning through our *Kingdom Kids* ministry. Parents are welcome to talk about baptism opportunities for their children with our pastor who oversees this area.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED ?

1. **Jesus commanded it.** Before he went to heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." —Acts 2:38 (NIV)

2. **Love requires it.** According to the Bible, those who love Jesus will do what He’s commanded us to do. If baptism is one of Jesus’ commands, then we should do it.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." —John 14:15 (NIV)

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." —John 14:21 (NIV)

3. **Baptism demonstrates that you are a follower of Jesus.** It doesn’t make you a Christian, however, it does show your devotion to Jesus and your desire to follow Him.

Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized. —Acts 18:8 (NIV)

4. **The early Church consistently practiced it.** In the New Testament, the normal pattern is that baptism immediately follows conversion.

- a. The Samaritans believed in Jesus and were baptized (Acts 8:12).
- b. On the day of Pentecost, three-thousand new believers were baptized (Acts 2:41).
- c. The Ethiopian eunuch believed in Jesus and was baptized (Acts 8:38).
- d. Saul (the Apostle Paul) believed in Jesus and was baptized (Acts 9:18).
- e. Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed and were baptized (Acts 10:48).
- f. Paul’s jailer and his family believed in Jesus and were baptized (Acts 16:33).

5. **Jesus modeled it for you!** He is your example.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." —Mark 1:9 (NIV)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM ?

Baptism has a two-fold meaning for Christ-followers: it is both symbolic and prophetic. Baptism symbolizes our union with Jesus, the cleansing of our sins, and our entering into God's community—the Church. It is also a prophetic act that releases the power of God into our life.

1. **Baptism expresses spiritual union with Jesus.** Through baptism, we symbolically die to our sinful way of life as we are lowered into the water; we are buried with Jesus as we are under the water; and then we are raised to new life with Jesus as we come up, out of the water, no longer dominated by sin, but rather, a new creation in Him! In baptism we are declaring Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and King and that we fully belong to Him.

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. —Romans 6:3–4 (NIV)

2. **Baptism expresses the cleansing and forgiveness of our sins.**

And so John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. —Mark 1:4–5 (NIV)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." —Acts 2:38 (NIV)

"And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." —Acts 22:16 (NIV)

3. **Through baptism, we express that we identify with, and enter into, God's new community, the Church.**

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. —Galatians 3:26–28 (NIV)

4. **Baptism is a prophetic act** whereby we declare and agree with Heaven that who we were without Christ has died. As we enter into the watery grave we leave the old self behind and as we are raised from the water we come into newness of life. This then prepares us for the filling of the Holy Spirit, who then desires to come upon us in a fresh way—empowering us to live the Christian life.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. —Romans 6:4–11 (NIV)

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. —Mark 1:10 (NIV)

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Ephesians 3:10–11 (NIV)

■ Next Steps

Leading up to your baptism date, here are some steps you can take to prepare yourself:

- Spend time reading and meditating on Scripture (Romans 6:1–14, Ephesians 1, Ephesians 3:8–13, Matthew 28:18–20, Isaiah 55, Psalm 91)
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the significance of this day to you
- Pray for (and expect!) an encounter with Jesus and believe for the resurrection power of Christ to be released in you as you get baptized
- Ask others to pray for you
- Invite friends and family to your baptism

■ The Day of Your Baptism

On the day of your baptism, please bring a dark shirt and knee-length shorts. Shorts and a t-shirt may be borrowed from the church if you do not have any. Remember to bring a towel and dry undergarments to change into afterwards.