

A large, dark blue, textured background image of water, possibly a sea or ocean, with visible ripples and waves.

# BAPTISM

A GUIDE FOR THOSE  
EXPLORING BAPTISM

# BAPTISM OVERVIEW

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## Next Step:

What is Baptism? It's **the next step** for anyone who has decided to follow Jesus. It tells the story of a new life that has been changed by Jesus. Baptism does NOT save you. Only Jesus does. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior then baptism is the next step for you.

## The WHY

In the Great Commission Jesus commands us to baptize believers. If Jesus commands it, we're going to do it. Baptism is an act of obedience (Matthew 28:16-20). While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates our submission to Him. We are to follow the example of Jesus, who was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). When we are baptized, we are publicly identifying with Christ. It's a humble act of submission and obedience to declare to all those around us, we are following Jesus.

## The WHEN

Now! Baptism is for those who have personally decided to follow Jesus. This is the pathway of obedience laid out in the book of Acts, which records people being baptized after coming to know Jesus (Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15, 33; 18:8).

## The WHAT

We proclaim, through baptism, that our identity is in Christ. Baptism is an embodied picture of our new life in Jesus made possible through His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). Our going under the water symbolizes our old life, which is buried with Christ. Our coming out of the water symbolizes our new life, which is raised with Christ (Romans 6:3-7). This is why we follow the method of baptism found in the Bible, which is called immersion (dunking under water).



## Let's Celebrate!

Baptism is a celebration that is worth remembering for a lifetime! We are celebrating Jesus's victory in a person's life and we are excited to be able to do this with you! You may even want to consider inviting friends and family (even if they don't go to church) to come to your baptism. Your act of joyful obedience to Jesus may spark a curiosity in them to ask questions about your faith!

# YOUR STORY

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## Your Relationship with Jesus

We are excited to speak with you about taking your next steps towards baptism! We encourage you to review the questions below and take some time to answer them honestly. We look forward to reviewing these questions with you when you meet with one of our staff members or elders to discuss your next steps.

Yes	No	<b>Check Yes or No for the following statements.</b>
		I trust that Jesus died for the forgiveness of my sin. (1 Corinthians 15:3)
		I trust that Jesus bodily rose from the dead three days later & appeared to many. (John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8)
		I have salvation and new life by God's grace through faith in Jesus. (John 3:16-18; Ephesians 2:1-10)
		I have decided to follow Jesus with all of my life. (John 3:1-15; John 14:15; Matthew 7:24-27)
		I want to be baptized to publicly identify myself with the death and resurrection of Jesus. His death is my death and his life is my life. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:1-5)

## Your Story

We also look forward to learning more about your story of coming to know Jesus. We encourage you to take a few minutes to review the following questions before you meet with one of our staff members. The staff member will use these questions as a guide for learning more about your story. We are grateful for the opportunity to support you on your journey with Jesus!

- ▶ How did you come to your decision to follow Jesus?
  
  
  
- ▶ Who played a key role in you coming to know Jesus?
  
  
  
- ▶ Why do you want to be baptized?

# BAPTISM FAQ

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## **How do I sign up for baptism?**

You can speak with any staff member or elder, letting them know you're interested in baptism. You can also email us at [info@centerpointnh.org](mailto:info@centerpointnh.org) and let us know of your interest.

## **What should I wear?**

We ask you wear something you don't mind getting completely wet. We will provide you with a CenterPoint T-shirt to wear. Most people find it helpful wear a dark pair of shorts. You should also bring a towel and a change of clothes for after. There will be a changing room available to you.

## **When should I arrive?**

An email with logistics will be sent to everyone getting baptized at least one week prior to the baptism service. We will ask you to arrive with plenty of time for us to show you where to put your change of clothes, to walk you through the service information, and to show you each step of the baptism process.

## **What do I say when I am baptized?**

### ***Group Statement***

We invite all of those being baptized to come forward together to provide a verbal "yes" to the following statements prior to being baptized:

1. I am forgiven of my sin through faith in Jesus' death on the cross.
2. I submit myself to Jesus and commit to follow Him and His way of life as witness of His resurrection.
3. By being baptized today, I am publicly identifying myself with the death and resurrection of Jesus.

### ***Individual Stories***

Each individual has the opportunity to briefly share their story of coming to know Jesus prior to their baptism. We would love for you to publicly share your own story. However, we recognize that public speaking can be challenging for some. You can choose to share your story yourself, have another follower of Jesus share it on your behalf, or arrange a time to record it on video. Remember, this is a day to celebrate and rejoice in what Jesus has done and continues to do in your life!

## **What comes after baptism?**

Way to go! We look forward to supporting you on your journey with Jesus. Keep digging into the Bible, get connected in a group, serve on a team, share your faith with others in love, and keep stoking the fire of your soul! Please know that you have a church that loves you. We are here to encourage and support you. Don't hesitate to let us know if and when you have any questions. We are excited to see all that God has in store for you!