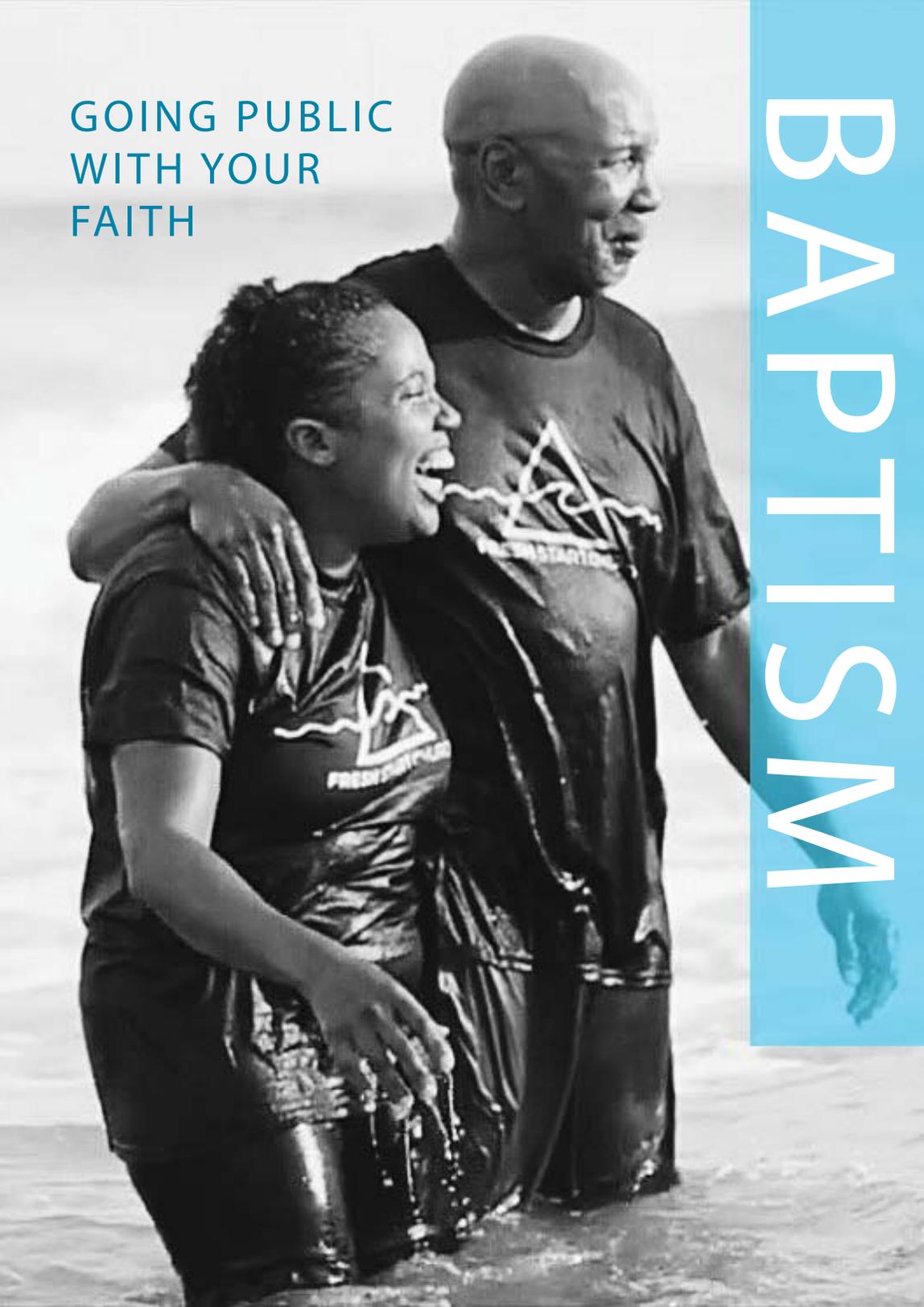


GOING PUBLIC
WITH YOUR
FAITH

BAPTISM



We're so excited you're interested in taking the next step of being baptized. Baptism is an important step in your walk with Jesus. The goal of this class is to help you understand what baptism is, who it's for and why you should do it.

Baptism

AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD COMMITMENT

I. What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism is a symbolic picture of the changed life (salvation) that happens when we invite Jesus to forgive us of our sins.

Baptism CANNOT save you.

God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. "

Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

It has nothing to do with getting you to heaven, but has everything to do with telling the world how you know you're getting there ... by faith in Jesus alone!

1. It illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again. "

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. "

Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. You can argue whether the Bible is true or not, but can't argue against a changed life.

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!"

Romans 6:4



Baptism

IT IS NOT A PART OF YOU GETTING INTO HEAVEN:

Example from the New Testament of baptism after salvation

"Can anyone Keep these from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. "

Acts 10: 47-48

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

Romans 8: 9 (NLT)

Example of salvation with no baptism (the thief on the cross)

"Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. " And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. "

Luke 23: 42-43

Paul's call from God illustrates that baptism has no impact on salvation

"For Christ didn 't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speeches and high-sounding ideas, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power i know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction. But we who are being saved recognize this message as the very power of God. "

1 Corinthians 1: 17-18

II. Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set _____ by Jesus _____.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river "

Mark 1:9

Baptism

2. Because Christ commands it. It's a step of growth/obedience to Jesus.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands."

1 John 2:3

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer and identifies me with the church.

"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.'"

Acts 2:40,46

III. How Are We To Be Baptized?

1. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water.."

Acts 8:38-39

In all cases in the New Testament where baptism is discussed the Greek word baptizo used which literally means "to plunge, dip, immerse." (If the writers of the New Testament would have wanted to indicate sprinkling as a mode of baptism they could have used the word "rhantizo" which means sprinkled.)

2. Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water"

Matthew 3:16



Baptism

IV. Who Should Be Baptized?

Anyone who has trusted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..."

Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized..."

Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of./esus Christ, they were baptized. both men and women."

Acts 8:12

Do you have to be a certain age to be baptized?

At Fresh Start Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. At Fresh Start Church we begin baptizing at age 8 after taking a class to reassure them of their decision. (*The Bible does not give any example of babies being baptized)

If your child expresses interest in baptism, talk and pray with him/her and make sure he/she understands what salvation is and what baptism symbolizes.

What's the difference between baptism & parent/child dedication or confirmation?

Fresh Start Church defines Parent/Child Dedication as the parental willingness to partner with God and the Church to raise your child to love God and others through God's Word. It's a very important time for parents to actively commit themselves to raising their child(ren) in accordance with the teachings of Scripture. (**Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4**).

"I asked the Lord to give me this boy and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there."

(1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Baptism

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

V. When are you supposed to baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

"Those who believed were baptized that day!"

Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water; and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?'. Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

At Fresh Start Church it is a requirement for Partnership that each individual must be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were "confirmed/and or sprinkled" as children.

FAQ's

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

Will I have to say anything?

Yes (see example on next page), we ask that each person share briefly their story of salvation either on video or personally at the service. Video testimonies will be done at the church.

"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven."

Matthew 10: 32

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Please dress modestly, but appropriately based on the location of your baptism. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing room.



Sample Baptism Testimony:

For so many years I argued against Christianity, God, religion, Etc. for many reasons. First off I didn't want to change my lifestyle because I liked partying, drinking, etc. and I couldn't understand how doing those things were so wrong.

Secondly, I didn't want to believe something just because it was written in some book (the Bible) that I knew little about. Not to mention I didn't want to conform to any 'rules' and I was always critical of other so-called Christians un-Godly actions and I really was turned away because of them.

However, I realized there was a lot I needed to figure out like, what I DID believe and why. So I decided to do a lot of research on my own, because I am someone who needs evidence/facts to support things. The more I read and researched the more Christian-bound I became.

I also began to actually attend church again and involved myself in a 20 something Christian group which meets once a week to hang out, do Bible study, etc. I pretty much went into this whole situation open-minded and ready to learn. I asked lots of people all kinds of questions, began to pray regularly, and listened to sermons or anything I could.

The result was that I got more and more reeled in and really started to see my life change. I have learned and grown so much in the past few months and now I'm proud to say that I'm a full-fledged Christian. Being saved has been a very life changing event for me and I'm really excited to see what God's plan is for my life. So the reason I'm getting baptized is to show everyone that Jesus is my Lord and Savior who died for me, I love Him, and I want the world to know.

Leah



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