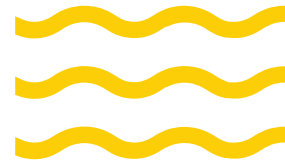


# PARENTS *Leading* KIDS



## LEADING KIDS IN A BAPTISM CONVERSATION

Why get baptized? There are three reasons that we discuss often. Our hope in sharing these reasons is that you will find comfort in leading your family in discussions about baptism. Christ not only commands believers to get baptized, baptism is also a gift he graciously gives for our benefit and blessing. Here are three reasons to get baptized: (1) to obey Christ's command, (2) to publicly profess faith in Christ, and (3) to formally commit yourself to Christ and his people.

### **Obeying Christ's Command**

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "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."

To summarize Jesus's teaching in Matthew 28:19, we can say that baptism is the first item on Jesus's list of "Everything I Have Commanded You." Why should you get baptized? Because if you consider yourself a follower of Jesus, then, after repenting and believing (Mark 1:15), the first formal, public act of following that Jesus requires of you is baptism. The Christian life is more than following commands, but it certainly isn't less. So after the command to repent and believe, here's your first "to-do" from Jesus.

### **Publicly Professing Faith in Christ**

Paul singles out baptism as a sign of conversion. But he doesn't just refer to baptism. He says, "in which you were also raised with him through faith" (Col. 2:12). Paul assumes that faith was present at the time of baptism, because faith was the reason for baptism. Faith in the resurrection power of God is why those Christians presented themselves for baptism. And publicly expressing that same faith is why you should be baptized too.

### **Committing to the Church**

As we've already seen, on the day of Pentecost, those who received the word were baptized and added to the church (Acts 2:41). All those who received Christ that day were received by the church. And the way the church received them was by baptizing them. In baptism, you step out of the world and into the church.

In baptism, you pledge yourself to the church, and the church pledges itself to you. The Christian life is not meant to be lived in private, nor is it meant to be lived alone. Baptism brings your life into the light of the church's loving concern. Baptism sets you within the strengthening and sustaining communion of Christ's people.

