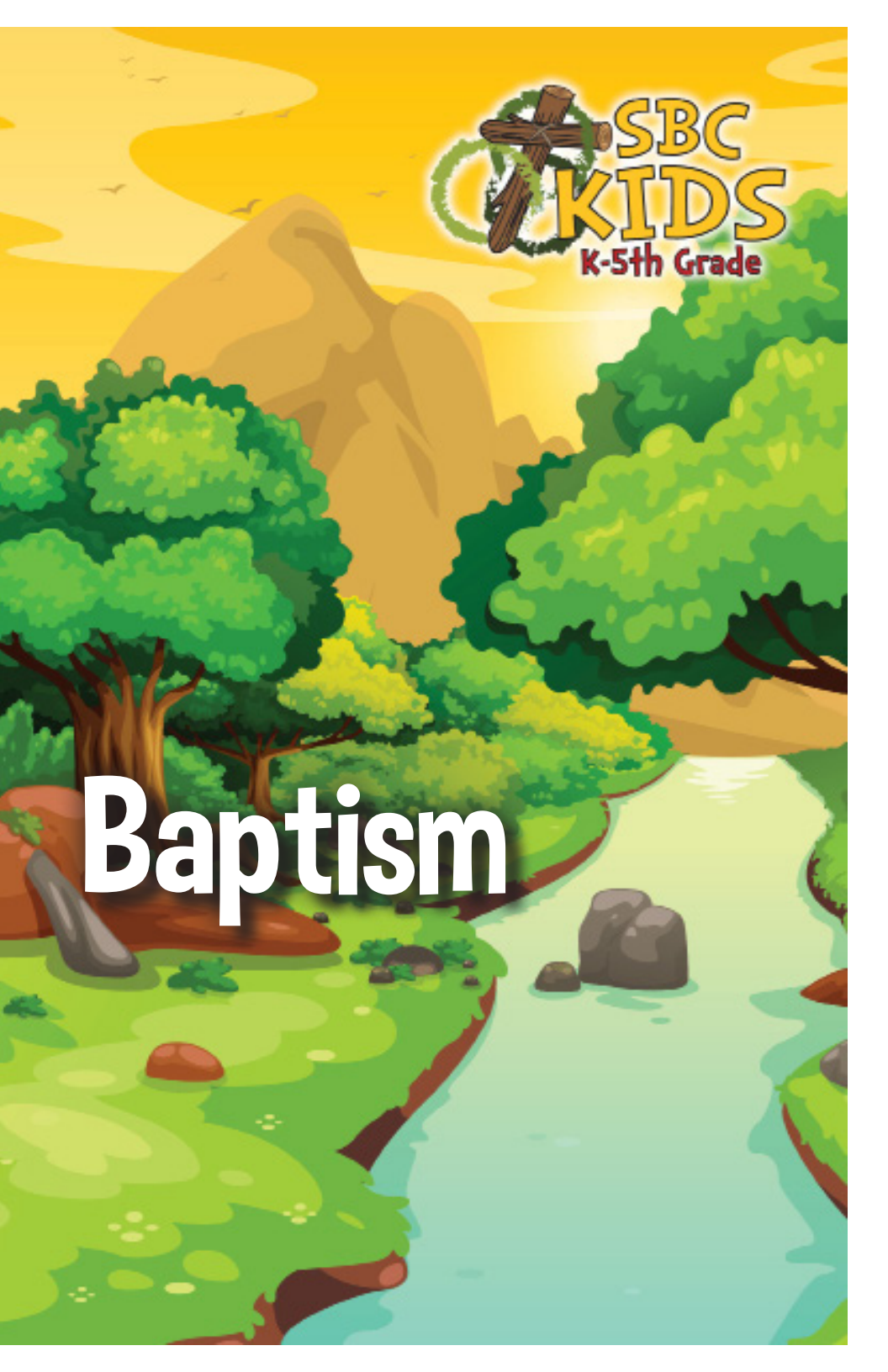




# Baptism



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by Michael Steffey

Children's Pastor

Silverdale Baptist Church

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Becoming a Christian is the most important choice you can ever make! How awesome to think that God loves you so much that He made a way for you to have a relationship with Him. This relationship starts when we put our faith in His Son, Jesus.

We call this the Gospel, which means Good News! Just to be sure you understand what the Good News of Jesus is, let's take a moment for a quick review:

## The Good News of Jesus is this:

*Jesus was born as a small baby boy. He lived a sinless life. He chose to die on a cross, but rose back to life three days later. Jesus then ascended, or went back up to Heaven to be with God the Father. **But wait! Jesus isn't finished!** Today, Jesus talks to God the Father for us and is preparing a place for us to be with Him someday.*

**Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be.**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

**...Christ Jesus is at the righthand of God and is also praying for us.**

**Romans 8:34**

**I am going (to my Father's house) to prepare a place for you...then you will also be where I am.**

**John 14:2-3**

When you choose to believe in the Good News of Jesus, God forgives you and you become a Christian. Right at that moment you are saved from your sin 100%! The Bible teaches that 1) there is nothing more that needs to be done to save you, and 2) nothing can take your salvation away! How cool is that?

**Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.**  
**Romans 8:39**

Here's a good question...

If a Christian is saved from sin 100%,  
what's the big deal with baptism?

Did you know that before Jesus went back to Heaven He gave two very important instructions to help you remember that He died, was buried, and rose back to life? Sometimes in the church, we call these ordinances or sacraments. One is the Lord's Supper (we can talk about this one later). The other is Baptism. Right before He went back up to heaven, Jesus told His followers:

**So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.**  
**Matthew 28:19-20**

*In the next few pages, I'm going to explain why baptism is so very, very important.*

**First things first:**

**Being baptized does not make you a Christian**

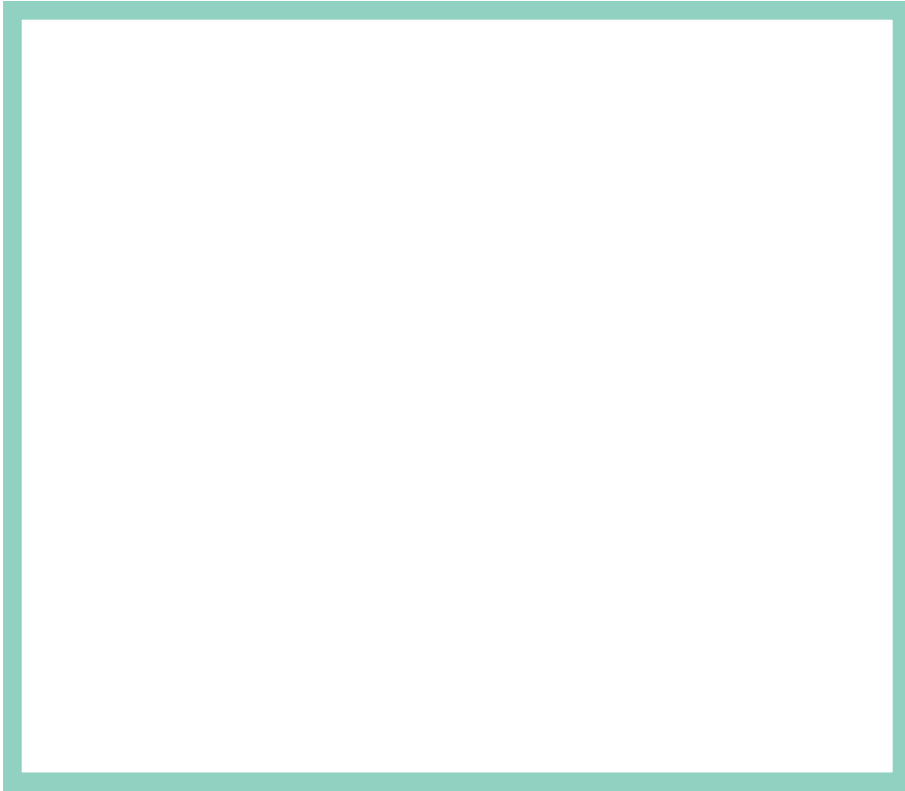
Remember this: Baptism doesn't make you a Christian. This is very important to understand. Only through faith in the Good News of Jesus can you become a Christian.

**God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It's God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.**  
**Ephesians 2:8-9**

## Why get baptized?

Baptism shows other people you have become a Christian. It's like a picture or symbol of something that has already happened.

Let me explain it like this: Take a moment to draw something you like to do in the box below.



(Cool picture!) Now, is the picture you just drew the same thing as actually doing what you like to do? No! It's only a picture, right? Your picture is only an illustration of the real thing. In a similar way, baptism is a picture of what happens to a person when they become a Christian.

**Still not sure? How about this...**on Valentine's Day people often give cards and candy. Many times these cards or candy are in the shape of a heart. Draw a heart in the space below.

Why do we give paper or candy hearts on Valentine's Day? We use the heart as a symbol for love. The paper itself isn't love, is it? Nope! It's just a *symbol of* the love we feel for someone else.

**One more illustration.** In the space below, draw a picture of your favorite sports team logo. (You can draw your school mascot if you like.)



*Silly question: would you want to go to a game or turn on the TV to watch your paper drawing play a real team? Of course not - that would be crazy! You would go to see your team! A team logo, team hat, baseball card, or poster are not the same thing as the real team. They are only symbols of the real thing. In a similar way, being baptized is not the same thing as becoming a Christian. Instead, baptism is a **symbol** of what Jesus did when He saved you. Get it?*

## Let's summarize everything that was just said:

*1. Baptism does not make a person a Christian. Baptism is a picture of when Jesus was buried and then rose back to life.*

What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

*2. Baptism is a picture of your new life as a Christian.*

By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life.

Romans 6:4

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation.

The old is gone! The new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

### Got it? Good!

Now, let's discuss a few more things you should know about baptism.

## Who should be baptized?

The Bible teaches that everyone who believes in Jesus should be baptized.

Those who accepted his message were baptized.

Acts 2:21

But Philip preached the good news of God's kingdom. He preached the name of Jesus Christ. So men and women believed and were baptized. Simon himself believed and was baptized.

Acts 8:12-13

## Why should a Christian be baptized? Here are 3 good reasons!

**1.** When you are baptized, you are following the example of Jesus. When Jesus was on earth He was baptized. When we are baptized, we show the world we love Jesus and want to be like Him.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee.

John baptized him in the Jordan River. Jesus was coming up out of the water. Just then he saw heaven being torn open. He saw the Holy Spirit coming down on him like a dove. A voice spoke to him from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

Mark 1:9-11

**2.** When you are baptized, you are following the instructions Jesus gave to His followers before He went back to Heaven.

...you must go and make disciples of all nations.

Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

**3.** When you are baptized, it happens in front of people to show others you truly believe in and belong to Jesus. Lydia was a woman who sold purple cloth for a living. Purple cloth was very valuable in her day. One day, she was with a group of women who heard Paul preach. After hearing Paul's message, she accepted it by faith. Lydia was baptized to show her belief in Jesus.

*The Lord opened her (Lydia's) heart to accept Paul's message. She and her family were baptized.*

*Then she invited us into her home.*

*Acts 16:14-15*



## How should a Christian be baptized?

The word for baptism in the new testament means “to dip under water.” Jesus himself was baptized that way. The Bible says:

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water.

Matthew 3:16

In fact,

every baptism in the Bible was done this way. One example of this is when Philip baptized a man from Ethiopia.

Then both Philip and the official went down to the water. Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water....

Acts 8:38-39

**Our church believes that baptism completely under water best pictures a burial and resurrection!**

## So...?

**I don't really understand all of this. Do I have to be baptized now?**

Are you still unsure about baptism? That's ok. Baptism is not something that has to be rushed. It is very important that you understand why Christians are baptized before you are baptized. Take some time to talk to your parents or another trusted Christian adult about baptism. When you are ready, you can come back and let us know.

We will be here waiting for you...and praying for you!

**I really want to be baptized. Now what do I do?**

Are you ready to be baptized? Awesome!! Here's what you need to do:

1. Send an email to [childrensministry@silverdalebc.com](mailto:childrensministry@silverdalebc.com) to set up a time to meet. Our Children's Pastor is ready, waiting and excited to speak with you. Be prepared to share your story about when you became a Christian and why you want to be baptized. Also, write any thoughts or questions you have on the next two pages.
2. After you meet, he will help you schedule a time to be baptized.
3. That's it!







**SILVERDALE**  
Baptist Church

7236 Bonny Oaks Drive

Chattanooga, TN 37421

423.892.2173

[silverdalebc.com](http://silverdalebc.com)

[childrensministry@silverdalebc.com](mailto:childrensministry@silverdalebc.com)

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