



Here's a guide that can help you discuss baptism with your kids. We encourage you to have your child read the Scriptures out loud and then review what he/she read. A worksheet is also provided at the end of this document for your child.

Ask: Why are we in this class today?

Ask: Who is Jesus and why does He matter to you?

This question is a good gauge for a child's personal motivation and knowledge of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Read John 3:16 - *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."*

Read John 14:6 - *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

Read Romans 5:8 - *"But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Ask: What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a perfect life without sin, and took the punishment that we deserved when He died on the cross. Jesus is the only way we can be saved. He is the Son of God, he came to earth, lived the perfect life, and died on a cross for our sins. He rose three days after his death and did it all because of how much he loves you. Because of his sacrifice, grace and forgiveness are available to everyone. To become a Christ-follower we must believe, accept, and confess this.

—Pause—

Read Romans 3:23 - *"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory."*

Read Romans 6:23 - *"When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done."*

What is sin? *Sin is when we think or act in a manner that goes against God.*

Have you sinned? What are some specific sins that you are guilty of committing? *Yes: Lying, Cheating, Stealing, Disobeying Mom/Dad, Taking God's Name in Vain, Breaking God's Law*

What does Romans say about the punishment for sin? *Because of our sin, we deserve death. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. We can never be good enough or do enough good things. We need a savior and that Savior is Jesus.*

—Pause—

Read Romans 10:9-10 - *“Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say what you believe. And so you are saved.*”

Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? Allow your child to answer these questions. Confessing that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God, is part of becoming a Christ-follower, but it doesn’t stop there. Confessing is a continual process. As a Christ-follower, we are called to tell others about what Christ has done for us and the new life we have in Him.

Read Acts 3:19 - *“So turn away from your sins. Turn to God. Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new.”*

Have you ever heard of the word “Repent?” What does it mean? *Repenting is to see our sin as God sees it, to turn away from our sin, and to turn toward God. Repenting is more than asking forgiveness; it’s recognizing our actions that are against God and making steps to remove those actions from our life. Because we are imperfect, we will sin again even after accepting Christ. But because of your acceptance of Christ’s grace, all of your sin has been forgiven. Christ-followers are called to continually repent, to turn away from their sin and to turn towards God.*

Are you truly sorry for the sins that you have committed?

—Pause—

Acts 2:38-39 - *“Peter replied, ‘All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose.’”*

Ask: According to this verse, what do you need to do when you realize you are a sinner? *We need to stop sinning and be baptized in the name of Jesus. He will forgive us and give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Read: *Baptism is part of the process of becoming a Christ-follower. Baptism is simply when someone is publicly dunked under water by another Christ-follower as a demonstration and symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Christ set the example when he was baptized and he instructs those who accept him to be baptized. Time and time again we find in the Bible that when someone becomes a Christ-follower they are baptized/fully immersed in water. (Examples if needed from Acts: 2:38-41; 8:9-13,26-36; 9:17-18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 30-33; 18:7-8) (Other scriptures on baptism if needed: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, John 3:5, 1 Peter 3:21, Romans 6:3-5)*

Ask: So why do people get baptized? Why do you want to be baptized?

—Pause—

Say: Committing your life to Jesus is the biggest decision of your life. It affects the life that you have already lived and your life from here on out. It also affects your eternity after death. Jesus has paid the penalty for the sins that you have committed and will commit in the future. Do you believe in Him and His Word? Are you ready to accept Jesus as your personal Savior? Are you ready to follow God, no matter what the cost? Do you want to be baptized?

Read John 14:15 - *"If you love me, obey my commands."*

Ask: What does this verse mean? What might you need to do differently in your life?

Read James 2:14-17 - *"Suppose a person claims to have faith but doesn't act on their faith. My brothers and sisters, can this kind of faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister has no clothes or food. Suppose one of you says to them, 'Go. I hope everything turns out fine for you. Keep warm. Eat well.' And suppose you do nothing about what they really need. Then what good have you done? It is the same with faith. If it doesn't cause us to do something, it's dead."*

Ask: How do you need to be living out your faith today? Remind your child that he/she is not saved through his/her actions but that our faith should be showing others the grace that God has given us.

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were living in your sins and lawless ways. But in fact you were dead. You used to live as sinners when you followed the ways of this world. You served the one who rules over the spiritual forces of evil. He is the spirit who is now at work in those who don't obey God. At one time we all lived among them. Our desires were controlled by sin. We tried to satisfy what they wanted us to do. We followed our desires and thoughts. God was angry with us like he was with everyone else. That's because of the kind of people we all were. But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you. God raised us up with Christ. He has seated us with him in his heavenly kingdom. That's because we belong to Christ Jesus. He has done it to show the riches of his grace for all time to come. His grace can't be compared with anything else. He has shown it by being kind to us. He was kind to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

Now what?

Talk as a family.

Pray.

Read more Scripture.

Once you are ready to make the decision of publicly declaring your faith in baptism:

Contact a staff member.

Set the baptism date.

Invite friends and family.

Who is doing the baptizing?

Celebration plans after service

What usually gets said during the service:

Talk about your child and his/her decision to follow Christ.

Talk about how your child came to this decision and what it means.

Ask them to profess who they believe Jesus is and the decision they are making. Something like:

"Repeat after me: I believe...that Jesus is the Christ...the Son of the Living God...and I have accepted Him,...as my personal Lord and Savior..."

Explain what is happening, "Upon your confession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Dunk, Hug, Pray

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What to wear?

Regular clothes or SoHills gear. It's okay to wear a modest swimming suit/shirt.

Bring clothes to change into afterward.

Changing rooms are in the back.

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Remember to celebrate! Consider inviting people who are influential in your child's life. Consider ways to celebrate after the service maybe with a dinner or family gathering! We will do our best to record this moment and share it with you through social media but it's always wise to get someone to also film just in case we do not. We will also create a certificate to mark the occasion. If we are unable to deliver it to you in person, we will leave it in the resource room for you to pick up a couple of weeks after the celebration.

We are praying for your family and are here to help with anything. Just shoot me an email or message me at cjones@sohillsc.com or 404.788.9487

Love you all,

Corey Jones



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Read John 3:16 -

Read John 14:6 -

Read Romans 5:8 -

What did Jesus do to save us?

—Pause—

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Read Romans 6:23 -

What is sin?

Have you sinned? What is a specific sin that you are guilty of committing?

What does Romans say about the punishment for sin?

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Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?

Read Acts 3:19 -

Have you ever heard of the word Repent? What does it mean?

Are you truly sorry for the sins that you have committed?

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Acts 2:38-39 -

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So, why do people get baptized? Why do you want to be baptized?

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