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A GUIDE TO BAPTISM AT NEW LIFE

CONGRATS ON THIS STEP OF FAITH

WE ARE CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

Baptism is such a significant faith step in the life of every Christian and we could not be more excited to celebrate with you! In fact, celebrating baptisms is one of my favorite parts of being a pastor. If you have any questions about baptism as you go through this guide or even want to chat more in depth, please don't hesitate to shoot me an email at brad@newlifewayland.org. Also, if there is someone important in your faith journey who you would like to baptize you (a parent, mentor, teacher, etc.), we would love to have them involved in your baptism! Simply let us know when you sign up at the link below. Again, I could not be more excited for you. We are cheering you on as you follow Jesus!

Much love,

Paster Brad



NEWLIFEWAYLAND.ORG/BAPTISM



"THAT IS WHY YOU SHOULD EXAMINE YOURSELF."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:28 NLT

Paul urged Christians in Corinth to examine themselves before taking part in the sacrament of Communion. Likewise, you will want to prepare for your baptism. The first step is to make sure you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Can you point to a specific moment when you repented of sin and confessed Jesus as Lord of your life? If not, it is essential you do so as an initial step in your life of faith.

The next step in your spiritual preparation is to make a public declaration of your faith through baptism. Salvation is personal but NEVER private. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matt. 5:14). Baptism is a conscious decision to display your faith so clearly that it can be seen by others in your church community.

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE BEING BAPTIZED?



TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS

When did I trust in Jesus as my Savior?

Do I have questions about what it means to be a Christian?

Am I spiritually ready to be baptized?

WHAT SHOULD I DO
BEFORE
BEING
BAPTIZED?



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BAPTIZED?

"BUT WHEN THEY BELIEVED PHILIP AS HE PREACHED THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, THEY WERE BAPTIZED BOTH MEN AND WOMEN."

ACTS 8:12

Congratulations! You are taking a giant step in your faith journey. Baptism is the way we go public with our faith in Jesus. Baptism is not a shortcut to get into heaven. Paul reminds us: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast (Eph. 2:8-9). Ritual alone

offers us no eternal hope. Baptism does not ensure your acceptance by God any more than does swimming in a pool. Instead, baptism is outward, physical evidence of Jesus' spiritual work inside you. By participating in baptism, you acknowledge your faith in His divine life and dynamic work of spiritual restoration and acceptance.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BAPTIZED?

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS

What does baptism mean to me?

How is baptism a sacred and meaningful act?

What other spiritual practices draw my heart closer to the Father and make me more like Jesus?



"GOING UNDER THE WATER WAS A BURIAL OF YOUR OLD LIFE; COMING UP OUT OF IT WAS A RESURRECTION, GOD RAISING YOU FROM THE DEAD AS HE DID CHRIST." COLOSSIANS 2:12 MSG

Water is an important symbol throughout Scriptures. It represents both life and death. On one hand, to go under water means you can't breathe. It's a picture of death and the grave and always has been. For example, Noah's flood: God floods the entire world. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3 the flood is a baptism, of

sorts. God also sends the prophet Jonah into the deep – into the water. It is his judgment upon Jonah. When someone is going down into the waters of baptism, that person is confessing: the death we deserve in sin. On the other hand, one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is living water. A water offered from Jesus with a promise that we will never thirst again (John 4).

Being raised up out of the water expresses our new life in Christ and our union with Him. Our heavenly Father physically raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him life. And He's done the same for us spiritually. Our unbelieving family and friends need to "see" this message in our life. Baptism is also a public declaration of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in our own future resurrection. After appearing on earth, Jesus ascended into heaven to take His rightful place at His Father's side. Someday we'll receive a resurrection body and live forever with Him.

WHY IS WATER AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF BAPTISM?





If you are interested in baptism, talk to one of the pastors right away. Whether there is already a planned service or not, we can help make it happen! If you have health issues that would make it difficult or unwise for you to participate in baptism, discuss them with a pastor or doctor. Appropriate accommodations can be made so that people who may have health issues can participate in this sacrament.

Should I wait until I'm further in my faith? Don't put off your baptism! Take the necessary steps now. Procrastination will rob you of both opportunity and spiritual victory. If baptism were for people who were perfect, none of us would ever be baptized.

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO BE BAPTIZED?

“JOHN’S BAPTISM WAS A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE. HE TOLD THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE COMING AFTER HIM, THAT IS, IN JESUS. ON HEARING THIS, THEY WERE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS.”

ACTS 19:4-5

When will I speak with one of the pastors about baptism?

How might my spiritual life be affected by putting off my baptism?

WHEN IS THE
RIGHT TIME TO BE
BAPTIZED?



HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR BAPTISM?

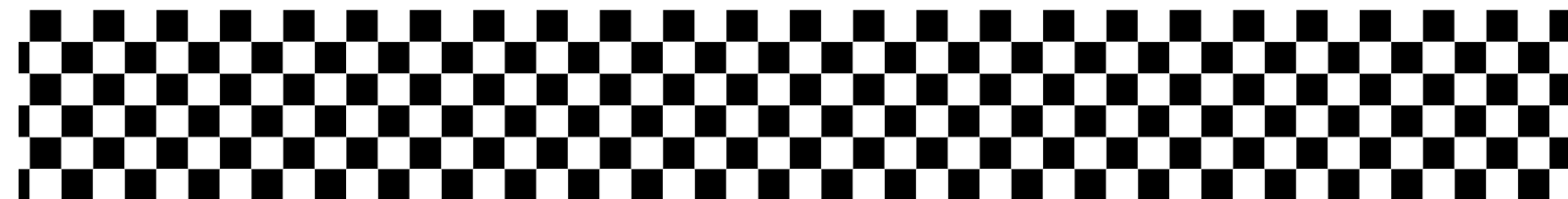
Prior to your baptism, we will provide instructions. Be sure to ask any questions you have and take time to acquaint yourself with New Life's facility.

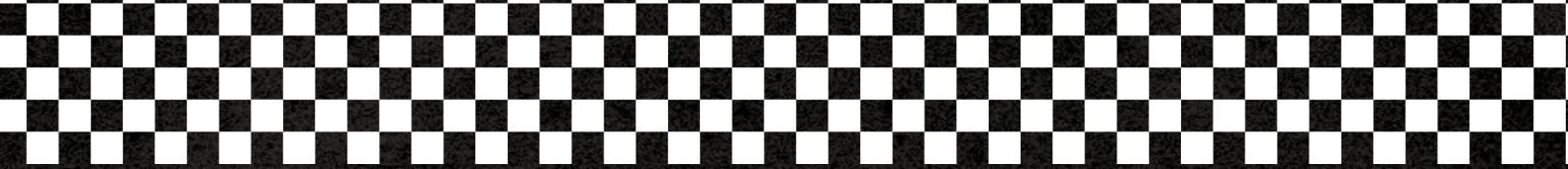
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? We recommend wearing clothes that can obviously get wet. The morning of your baptism, we will provide you with a t-shirt you can wear to get baptized. Bring a change of clothes, towel, and plastic bag for wet clothes.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO? Use the moments prior to your baptism to reflect on what Jesus has done for you—and in you. Make it an intentional time of preparation and not one of meaningless distractions. When it is your turn, you will be asked for a verbal response, confessing Jesus as your Savior (if you wish to share a 3 minute version of your story, let Pastor Brad know ahead of time).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER BAPTISM? You can head directly to the bathroom to change into clothes. Be sure to sign the baptism tank before you leave!

"EVEN THE DESPISED TAX COLLECTORS CAME TO JOHN TO BE BAPTIZED, AND THEY ASKED HIM, 'WHAT ARE WE TO DO TO PROVE OUR HEARTS HAVE CHANGED?'" LUKE 3:12 TPT





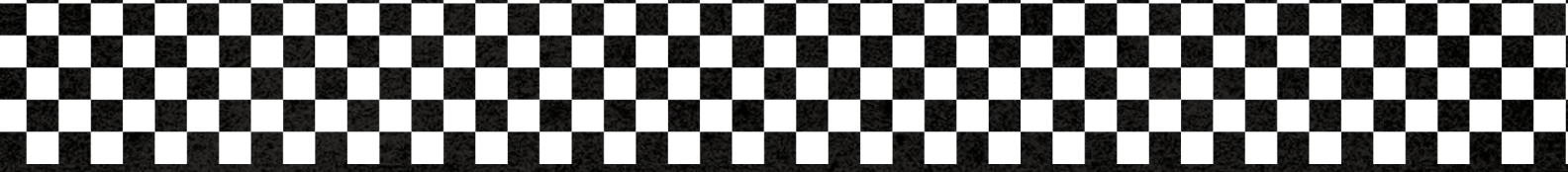
HOW IS
BAPTISM
NOW PART OF
MY NEW LIFE
STORY?

"COME AND LISTEN, ALL YOU WHO FEAR GOD, AND I
WILL TELL YOU WHAT HE DID FOR ME." PSALM 66:16

As we've said already, your faith is personal but never private. Baptism is an incredible time to write out your own faith story, reflecting on where God has brought you on your faith journey. The journey of faith is one where we often say, "I may not yet be where I want, but I'm not where I was."

When writing your faith story, we encourage people to break it up into three parts: Life before Christ, Encounter with Christ, and Life with Christ. Each of these parts of your story have significant moments or events that have formed your faith. For many, baptism is one of the most significant events during life with Christ.





HOW IS
 BAPTISM
 NOW PART OF
 MY NEW LIFE
 STORY?

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL QUESTIONS AS YOU CONSIDER BAPTISM AS PART OF YOUR TESTIMONY:

Why do I want to get baptized? What was the catalyst for me?

How have I grown in my faith between when I got saved and now?

Where do I see myself in a year in my faith journey? What are my spiritual goals in the next year?

"I WANT CHILDREN TO COME TO ME, SO NEVER INTERFERE WITH THEM WHEN THEY WANT TO COME, FOR HEAVEN'S KINGDOM REALM IS COMPOSED OF BELOVED ONES LIKE THESE!" MATTHEW 19:14



At New Life, we practice believer's baptism. This means that baptism is a willful choice on the part of the individual to go public with their faith in Jesus. If your child has trusted in Jesus, it may be the right time for them to be baptized.

PARENTS: TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM



HERE ARE A COUPLE QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

What does it mean to trust in Jesus?

Read Romans 10:9-10 (MSG) with your child:

"SAY THE WELCOMING WORD TO GOD—"JESUS IS MY MASTER"—EMBRACING, BODY AND SOUL, GOD'S WORK OF DOING IN US WHAT HE DID IN RAISING JESUS FROM THE DEAD. THAT'S IT. YOU'RE NOT "DOING" ANYTHING; YOU'RE SIMPLY CALLING OUT TO GOD, TRUSTING HIM TO DO IT FOR YOU. THAT'S SALVATION. WITH YOUR WHOLE BEING YOU EMBRACE GOD SETTING THINGS RIGHT, AND THEN YOU SAY IT, RIGHT OUT LOUD: "GOD HAS SET EVERYTHING RIGHT BETWEEN HIM AND ME!"

People often pray a prayer something like this when they make this decision: "God, I know you love me. I admit I have sinned and done wrong things, and I am truly sorry.. I believe in my heart that Jesus, your son, died for me and you brought Him back to life. I commit to following you. Jesus you are my leader, the Lord of my life. I invite your Holy Spirit to teach me how to live my life free from sin.

PARENTS: TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM

What does it mean to you to be baptized?

Baptism is for those of us who have admitted we're sinners (messed up) and told God we're sorry and want to live for Him. We must believe that Jesus took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross and that God brought Him back to life. Then we commit to follow Him in our life, obeying him, as he teaches us how not to sin.

Once we've done these things, baptism is our next step to publicly let others know we've committed to following Jesus. Christ tells us that once we become believers we should be baptized. When we do this we are professing our faith in Jesus Christ to everyone. We are setting aside a time to mark this decision and let everyone know it.



PARENTS: TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM

