

# BAPTISM

*Our greatest desire is to connect people with Jesus, and strengthen them on their discipleship journey.*

*One of the first things Jesus calls His disciples to do is be baptized.*

*Baptism is the opportunity to publicly proclaim to your friends, family, and those you share life with the commitment you've made to follow Jesus.*

*As a follower of Jesus, if you haven't yet been baptized - we'd love to help make that a reality!*

*~Kristi & Mike Caulley, Lead Pastors*





**INTRO**

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- A public **celebration** of your commitment to Jesus and becoming a part of His community of followers.
  - A public **expression** of your decision to enter a new kind of life, living in a growing relationship with Jesus, free from the power of sin and the past.
  - An **identification** with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection: Immersion in the water signifies death to sin; coming up out of the water signifies being 'resurrected' into new life.
  - Baptism is **acting** on the belief that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection made it possible for us to be forgiven of all our sins and be re-connected with God.
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## WHEN IS THE NEXT BAPTISM?

- Visit [www.larkspur.church/baptism](http://www.larkspur.church/baptism) for upcoming dates
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## HOW CAN I BE BAPTIZED?

- Attend a baptism info meeting
  - Email: [baptism@larkspur.church](mailto:baptism@larkspur.church)
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## WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

- Among Christians, there are different perspectives on infant baptism. Some denominations and traditions (such as Episcopal, Presbyterian and Catholic) baptize infants, while others (such as most Baptists) do not. Perhaps you were baptized as an infant -- how should you view that baptism?
- You certainly want to show respect to your parents and their viewpoints, as well as be grateful to God for any spiritual influence they had in your life. However, the Bible teaches that baptism is an

action that follows conversion. If you have not been baptized since making your personal decision to follow Jesus, we encourage you to take this step and be baptized.

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## WHAT ABOUT BAPTIZING CHILDREN?

- We baptize anyone able to understand the significance of baptism. (See section on "*What is Baptism?*").
  - If your child is interested in being baptized, please initiate a conversation with the Kids or Students pastors to determine readiness to take this step.
  - Infants/Children are dedicated to God by their parents (rather than baptized), based on the model of Samuel in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 1:21-29) and Jesus in the New Testament (Luke 2:21-24). For more information about dedications, call 303.681.2357.
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## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

- Dress modestly, as you will be totally immersed at the time of your baptism (*consider what your clothes will look like when wet*).
  - We will provide you with a dark colored shirt to wear during your baptism, presented at the baptism class.
  - No sweatshirts, sweatpants, or blue jeans, please — these retain too much water.
  - Bring a towel and dry change of clothes.
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## MAY I INVITE FAMILY/FRIENDS TO MY BAPTISM?

- Absolutely, we encourage you to!
- If they're unable to attend, we'll have a private link available to share.

# JOURNEY

*The experience and journey is unique to each person, but the Bible shows us that there are some key and consistent components experienced by every true follower of Jesus.*

## 1. HEAR the good news of the Gospel

*John 3:16-17 NIV*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

*Romans 5:8 and 3:23-24 NIV*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

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## 2. REPENT and believe

*Mark 1:14-15 NIV*

*...Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

## 3. BELIEVE and confess

*Romans 10:9-10 NLT*

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

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## 4. BE BAPTIZED

*Matthew 28:19-20 NIV*

*Therefore 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.*

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## 5. ENTER the new life Jesus came to give!

*Romans 6:4 NIV*

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*



**PREP**

*The following questions are designed to help you understand the meaning and significance of baptism. Take a moment to write your answers in the space provided.*

What are the central truths about salvation?

–*Titus 3:4-7*

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Jesus was baptized as an example for us.

What happened at His baptism?

–*Matthew 3:13-17*

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Before He ascended to heaven, what did Jesus command His disciples to do?

–*Matthew 28:19-20*

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What happens when you are baptized?

–*Romans 6:1-14 (especially v. 4), 1 Peter 3:18-21, Galatians 3:24-29*

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How many times should I be baptized?

–*Ephesians 4:4-6*

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When did you realize you are a sinner in need of the forgiveness and new life offered by Jesus?

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How are you seeking to grow as a follower of Jesus?

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### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

- What does the Bible say about baptism?
- What does God tell us to do regarding baptism?
- What was your life like before you surrendered it to Jesus?
- What part of your life needs to be given to Jesus the most?

### **PREPARING YOUR HEART, THE WEEK OF BAPTISM**

- Daily, read a few or all of the scriptures above and pray inviting God to cleanse, fill and empower you.
- Fast for a meal or even a full day. Spend that time praying and reading scriptures on baptism.
- Invite friends and family to be with you for your baptism. Ask them to pray for you leading up to the actual day.

*If you need help preparing for your baptism, please contact [baptism@larkspur.church](mailto:baptism@larkspur.church).*





**THE DAY OF**

## WHAT DOES BAPTISM LOOK LIKE?

- Baptisms are a part of our weekend services, held at the end of service, after ministry time and the final dismissal. If you have family and friends who won't be in person, we'll put the video online in a private link for you to share.
- Prior to service, all of those being baptized, along with the pastors, will meet to walk through some of the steps in this booklet, and have a time to pray over you, inviting the Holy Spirit to be present.
- Throughout the day, pray and ask the Lord to give you a word or phrase that represents what you're declaring through baptism (*for example your word might be "Made New" or "Forgiven" or "Set Free" or "His" or "Loved"*). We'll invite you to write this word on your baptism shirt, and we'll spend a few minutes praying over you and your word before service.

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## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WATER?

- At the end of service, we'll invite those being baptized forward to the stage. We will call each person to come forward as they feel led by the Spirit, at which time you can climb into the baptismal and sit down. We'll invite you to share with the congregation (*if you'd like, this is optional and there is no pressure*) a short reason why you're being baptized and what the word on your shirt means to you and your journey with Jesus.

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## DO I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

- We will then lead you through answering the following questions (responding with "Yes" or "I Do"):
  - Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God?

- Do you believe Jesus died for your sins and was resurrected on the third day?
- Have you received Him as your Lord and Savior?
- Do you commit that you will be His and He shall be yours from this day forward?

*\*Please do not touch the microphone as you will be in water at that point – we will hold it close enough for you to be heard*

- When you've said yes to all of these questions, the pastor will ask you to pinch your nose with your left hand and hold your left wrist with your right hand. They will then dunk you backwards into the water and raise you back up. That's it! You've been made new! So smile and celebrate your new life!
- You can then climb out of the baptismal, dry off, and be ready for hugs and celebration!

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Finding a place in community is a vital part of following Jesus. We encourage you to try on some of these next steps as you explore your faith.
  - Get connected into a small group
  - Find an all-church class or workshop
  - Sign up for Emotionally Focused training
  - Meet with a pastor for mentoring and direction
- If you're interested in learning more about which next step is right for you, visit [www.larkspur.church](http://www.larkspur.church), or email [info@larkspur.church](mailto:info@larkspur.church)



# QUESTIONS

*If you have ANY questions big  
or small we are here for you!*

*Please let us know:*

*baptism@larkspur.church*

*303.681.2357*