

How Do I Know If My Kid Is Ready to Be Baptized?

One of the most exciting yet daunting conversations a Christ-following parent has is: *How do I know if my child is ready to be baptized?* Thoughts just as am I expecting too much? Are they too young? Are they simply repeating responses they have heard other kids say? How do I determine if they truly “get it?”

Rest easy—these are typical questions, and the fact you are asking them shows you are invested in your child’s spiritual journey. Below are some insights that might be helpful as you navigate these important conversations in your child’s faith journey.

1. Salvation is the first step.

A: Kids can understand who Jesus is and His work on the Cross. In a child-like faith, they must articulate why Jesus is necessary, and there is no other way.

B: Avoid asking “Yes” and “No” questions because it won’t create conversation. Instead ask questions that create conversation.

- Example: Do you believe in God is not as effective as Who is God?

Here are some possible questions to consider asking...

God

Who is God? What is He like?

Sin

What is sin? Who has sinned? Does this include you? Who have you sinned against?

What do you deserve because of your sin?

Jesus

What has Jesus done for you? How have you responded to what Jesus has done for you?

Baptism

Why do you want to be baptized?

C: Ask questions at different times and in various settings. Maybe you ask, “Why did God send Jesus?” on the way home from ball practice one night, and then ask, “What does it mean to have a relationship with Jesus,” a week later at dinner. Then, a few days later, ask them another question or the same one.

D: You are looking for more than memorized answers; you are looking for repentance (not “I messed up and am in trouble,” but rather, “This doesn’t please Jesus, forgive me”) and faith (complete trust). This shows conviction.

E: Look for God-activity in their life. Do they ask you to pray? Do they want to read their Bible? Do they often ask you questions about God? This could be an indicator that the Spirit is working on them.

2. Baptism is an act of obedience.

A: There is a difference between desiring baptism because “it’s the cool thing to do,” or “My friend got baptized, so I want to,” and “I want to do this because I understand what Jesus did for me, He is my Lord and Savior, and I want the world to know.

B: It’s okay to pump the breaks. Parents, you are not a failure to slow down and make sure your child understands what they are doing. Baptism is not necessary for salvation. However, it is a command from Jesus and an act of obedience—this is why we do it.

C: Consider how often your child brings up the conversation. Once a week? Once a month? Longer? The more they ask, the more it’s on their heart. If they only bring it up after seeing someone get baptized, maybe it is more curiosity.

3. Pray often.

A: Parents, pray for your kids every night after they have gone to bed. Make this a regular practice.

B: Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you discernment. Also, remember this is not something you can decide for your child. It’s between them and God.

C: Lead by example and pray with your child. They need to see what a relationship with Jesus looks like in real-time.