# **MILESTONE:**



# SALVATION AND BAPTISM.

# PARENT GUIDE AND PROCESS

A guide for parents of elementary age kids to help lead their child toward responding to the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and determining if they are ready to take the step of baptism.





# Milestone: Faith Commitment SALVATION AND BAPTISM PARENT GUIDE

# WELCOME TO THE JOURNEY!

Hello Parents! As a Berean Kids and Family Ministry Team, we are thrilled that your child is interested in taking the step of baptism. We want to take great care in guiding you and your child in the process of taking this step. We want to help you make sure that your child is ready. Through this packet and a meeting with a pastor, we want to partner with you in determining their readiness to take the step of baptism.

The most common question that I get about baptism is, "How old does my child need to be to be baptized?" or "How do I know when my child is ready for baptism?" My response is, "If they have responded to the message of the gospel through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as their forgiver and Savior, then they are ready for baptism." Age is not the primary determining factor in gauging readiness (although it may play a role). What really matters is that we take time to determine if a child has *truly* responded to the gospel.

- Do they have a true understanding of the gospel? (Who God is and what He has done through His Son Jesus Christ?)
- Have they come to grips with the reality of their sin? (Conviction)
- Are they choosing to turn to Jesus, or are they trying to avoid hell?
- Have they shown a changed life over a period of time that would confirm a true understanding and response to the gospel? (Fruit)

Whereas age might not be the primary determining factor, age will play a role in how we approach these questions. This parent guide is for the purpose of helping you, and we together, gauge the readiness of your child for baptism, while helping you lead them to a true and right understanding of the gospel. My prayer is that the information in this packet, the conversations that will ensue, and going through this process will help to lead your child toward and set a solid foundation for a firmly-rooted, authentic faith.

Pastor Ben Holden

Pastor of Family Ministries

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Berean Baptist Church

# A WORD OF CHALLENGE

It is a very common occurrence when a child has been involved at church. It may have been through Sunday morning programming, VBS, a special event, or a combination of sorts. They have heard about Jesus, were asked if they wanted to "ask Jesus into their hearts and go to heaven" and were led to pray a "prayer of salvation". Maybe they saw a friend or older sibling be baptized. They approach mom or dad and express their desire to be baptized. What exciting words for a parent to hear! This is something that has been prayed for since birth. It is easy to get excited, call the grandparents, tell the Sunday School teacher, and plan for the next baptism service. But, is your child really ready to take this step?

We want to challenge you to pause, and consider the importance of this moment. While these are exciting words to hear, we would challenge you to not simply take the words of your child at face value. God has placed them in your care as parents to lead and guide them spiritually. This is one of the most critical parts of the entire process. Failing to take the time to ask questions, talk through the gospel, and dig deeper into your child's desire to take this step can have detrimental effects that can last into their adulthood and beyond. So, what should you do when your child expresses their interest in baptism?

First, don't assume that true conversion has really happened with your child. This isn't about skepticism or preparing for an over legalistic process, but instead about shepherding the heart and soul of your child. Just because a child has prayed a prayer or has been asking spiritual questions (both good things!), doesn't mean that true conversion has yet taken place.

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What we want more than anything is to see our children respond to the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Our desire though, can often cause us to jump to conclusions and make assumptions. We want to believe that our child truly understands the gravity of their sin, their need for a Savior, and what it means to repent and believe. And because we so badly want this, when they show interest in salvation and baptism, we might jump to celebration instead of viewing this as the beginning of a journey.

Whereas sometimes a child is truly repenting of their sin and placing their faith in Jesus Christ, often times their questions and actions are simply signs of spiritual interest. This is okay! In fact, this is something to be celebrated, but as a beginning rather than a conclusion. Kids often times love to respond to our teaching and to the teaching of other adults, but that doesn't mean that they truly understand. It is important to shepherd them and treat their questions and interest as the start of the process rather than the end.

# Dangers of a Quick Assumption

If we aren't careful and diligent to walk through the gospel with our child, it can lead to some critical consequences:

- Confusion If we aren't diligent to walk through all aspects of the gospel, kids can easily have a
  distorted view of what the Bible really teaches.
- False Assurance Kids can move forward in life thinking they have made a profession of faith and that their eternity is secure, when in fact this isn't true.
- Lack of Foundation Without a clear understanding of the gospel, a child's faith can easily be shaken or dislodged completely later in life.
- Future Consequences Anything less than a solid foundation can lead to engrained belief in wrong concepts and a future of confusion and false assurance.

# It Takes Time

So what should you do when your child shares that they have made a decision to follow Jesus or asks about being baptized? First, you should show excitement and share praise. You should also let them know that because you care about them and their faith that you want to help them walk through these beginning stages. As you engage in conversations with your child, a good starting point is to give your child time to grasp the different aspects of the gospel and their condition in relation to God, with time for you to observe the fruits of their conversion. Here are some key things to consider in this process:

- Give your child TIME to grasp the implications of God's holiness as compared to their sin.
- Give your child TIME to grasp the ideas that only faith in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross is sufficient for the forgiveness of their sin, rather than their own actions or efforts.
- Give your child TIME to understand their need to repent of their sin.
- Be patient to wait for evidence of a changed life.

Time is such an important part of this process. You will want to allow for a period that is a minimum of a few months for observation. You don't want to be overly strict with this and drag it out too far, but you do want to make sure that you see patterns of continued conviction of sin and a desire to follow God rather than their own desires. The stewarding of this process as your child formulates and grows their new faith is one of the greatest tasks that you have as a parent. It's a good thing for kids to struggle with the decision to place their faith and trust in Jesus. The ugliness of their sin needs to be experienced and grieved over. We want to encourage you, don't rush this process!

# What to Look For

Through conversations and the course of everyday life, you will begin to learn about the true condition of your child's heart, their understanding of the gospel, and the reality of their faith. Here are some things to look for during the course of this process that will show your child is on the right path:

- Look for a clear understanding of their sin in relation to a holy God.
- Look for acknowledgement of their sin and that true repentance has taken place.
- Look for a personal embracing of Jesus as Savior and a trust in His finished work on the cross.
- Look for a lifestyle that exemplifies obedience, care for siblings/friends, remorse and the act of apologizing when wronging someone, having a desire to learn more about God, and showing a faith that their salvation is secure.
- Look for progress in the depth of their faith without having to be constantly pushed by a parent.

You aren't looking for perfection in these things, but steps to real progress and understanding.

# SALVATION

Knowing what to say when talking through the gospel with your child can be a scary or intimidating thing. Use this guide to help you know what to talk through and explain to your child. This is not intended to be a one-time conversation, but an ongoing series. Remember, this is a journey with many discussions, questions and answers, wrestling with new ideas and truth, and time to digest. On this journey kids should be given time to think through, process, and come to a basic understanding of the gospel. Apart from knowing and understanding the gospel, you can't believe and respond to the gospel.

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An important opening note: Make sure to define the 'churchy' terms you might use. And be careful about how you define these words. For example, don't define 'sin' as mistakes. Sin is rebellion against God. Sin is saying to your sovereign ruler: "I will decide what is true and right – not you."

# Key Components of the Gospel

Here are the key components and concepts of the gospel that you should discuss with your child:

# God's Design

Looking around, it isn't hard to realize that our world was created, rather than happening by accident. We see the sun rise and set every day. We see the oceans come to a stopping point on the beaches. We see the changing of the seasons with new life arriving every spring. We see the sun provide the right amount of warmth and the clouds bring rain.

If the world was created, then it must have a creator. The Bible tells us that it is God who created the world. (Genesis 1:1) Not only did He create the world, but He is powerful over all of it, because He created it. When God created the world, He created it with a specific design. There was to be perfect harmony between God and His creation. There was to be perfection in how everything worked together. There was also to be perfection in that God and man were to be in perfect relationship with one another. It isn't too hard though to see that something has happened that altered God's original design.

# Sin

The Bible tells us that man chose to elevate himself and his own desires over God and His design. Man chose to decide what he thought was true and right and to act based on that, rather than what God said was true and right. And when man sinned, it brought sin into our world, causing all of us to be sinners. (Romans 3:23)

We all have an internal sin nature. That is far worse than just doing some wrong things from time to time. Our natural desires are to elevate ourselves over everything and everyone else and to do as we please. Sin is wanting to be our own God and to live our lives apart from God's rule. It is shining the spotlight (glory) on ourselves, rather than shining the spotlight on God.

Sin is an actual transgression against God. It is us disobeying *Him*. It is us living in opposition to Him and His ways. Sin is also a perverse desire and perverse love for creation rather than for God, our creator.

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Sin is a personal thing. It is a function of the will. In other words, we all personally, and willingly choose to sin and go against God. It stands in complete contrast (is completely different than) to the holiness of God. God is holy; He is different than everything else; He is set apart; He is perfect in all that He does, says, and thinks. And because God is holy, we must also be holy. This was God's original design. The issue with God being holy is that, in order for God to continue being holy, He cannot associate with sin. He cannot be attached to what is not holy.

God will not and cannot look the other way, or excuse sin. Because God is holy, He must *justly* deal with sin. In other words, in order to be holy, God must distance Himself from sin and let its consequences take place.

# **Brokenness and the Consequences of Sin**

The Bible explains our condition because of sin, as being dead. (Romans 6:23a) We have broken away from God's design through our sin and therefore we are now in a state of brokenness. This is a serious deal! This brokenness is not only a state that we are in (separated from God), but it is also something that we experience and feel. We experience it in our everyday lives through struggle, hardship, and pain. We will notice things seeming to be not fair, just, or working right. In brokenness we experience pain and suffering. We will also experience it in eternity through death and eternal separation from God in hell.

What we tend to do in our state of brokenness, just like with any situation that is painful, is to try to find a way out. We might try to find a way out through the love and acceptance of other people. We think that if we are loved by someone else, then it will take away the pain of brokenness in our life. This shows itself through an unhealthy desire for certain friendships or looking for self-worth through a relationship with someone from the opposite gender.

We might try to find a way out of our brokenness through addictions. You may know people who are addicted to drugs, alcohol, pain, or something else, as a way to try and not have to feel the pain of brokenness. We also might try to be "the best me I can be" or a "Super Me". We simply try to do better and be better hoping that it will fix our problem.

The reality is that every one of these ways of trying to escape brokenness fails. In fact, not only do they fail, but they make things worse and lead us further and further, and deeper and deeper into brokenness.

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It is important to understand that God is holy, which demands our perfect obedience to His commands. Because of our inability to meet God's demands, the reality is that in our state of brokenness, we are also in a state of hopelessness. There is no hope for us to escape and for things to get better. There is nothing YOU can do on your own to remove your sin and to escape this miserable and hopeless state. What this shows us is that deliverance can only come from something or someone else.

# The Gospel

The word 'gospel' simply means good news. The good news is that all hope is not lost! We are not eternally stuck in our brokenness with no hope. There is hope! While God could have walked away from His creation and let it fester in its sin and brokenness for the rest of eternity, He chose to bathe us in His all-sufficient and sacrificial love, grace, and mercy. (Romans 6:23)

#### **KEY TERMS**

- Sufficient Enough; all that is needed; completely satisfying the requirements for sin to be wiped clean
- Grace When you get what you don't deserve (we don't deserve God's love and forgiveness)
- Mercy When you don't get what you deserve (we deserve eternal punishment, but God chose to act on our behalf so that we can be released from this)

God chose to send His Son Jesus to earth on our behalf. (John 3:16) Jesus was BOTH God and man (100% God and 100% man). He was different from anyone that ever lived. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He didn't deserve the punishment for and consequences of sin like us. However, he was put to death (He allowed this to happen), paying the punishment for all of sin on our behalf. He was the only one that could do this FOR US because He was both human and perfect. He paid a penalty that He didn't have to pay, therefore allowing it to be in place of us paying the penalty ourselves. Sin requires death and Jesus satisfied that requirement for us through *His* death. (Romans 5:6-8)

But Jesus did not stay dead. Death is not more powerful than God. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. This is something that He could only do because He is God. In doing this, He conquered death, proving that nothing is more powerful than He is. Death no longer has control over us. Through Jesus Christ, it has been conquered and no longer has power over us.

Jesus is alive! He became our substitute. He sacrificed Himself so that we would not have to pay the penalty for sin on our own. In doing this, He removed our sin from us 'as far as the east is from the west.' (Psalm 103:12) God Himself, in Jesus Christ, decided to suffer 'the wages of sin' that His own holiness demands. He paid the penalty for our sin by shedding His own blood. He took the punishment each of us deserves.

Jesus' act at the cross paid the penalty for our sin, washing us clean of our sin, therefore removing the barrier between us and God. We have now been reconciled with God (brought back to His original design of a harmonious relationship with Him). He has provided the way for us to exit our state of brokenness and a path for us to return to His original design. We now have hope. This really is good news!

# Response

Knowing what God did through His Son, Jesus Christ at the cross, our next step is to respond to the message of the gospel.

### **BELIEF**

The first step is to come to the understanding that you have sinned, be convicted of your sin, therefore recognizing that there is nothing that YOU can do about this. You need to believe that God is who He says He is (the creator of all things who is powerful over all things), and He has done what He said He has done (sent Jesus as His Son to die, paying the penalty of our sin, allowing us to be reconciled to God).

This is more than just believing that what God did through Jesus is true. This is COMPLETELY trusting in Jesus as THE WAY for our sins to be forgiven, and THE ONLY WAY to be reconciled to God and return to His original design. (John 14:6) We must have FAITH that what Jesus did at the cross counted for us and is sufficient. (Faith is complete belief and trust, even though we haven't seen it with our own eyes.) The Bible says that one of the things we need to do to have Jesus' death count on our behalf is to BELIEVE that forgiveness comes through Jesus Christ and Him alone. (Romans 10:9)

## **REPENTANCE**

The other thing that the Bible tells us we must do is to REPENT. To repent means to:

- Be convicted of your sin and recognize its severity against God.
- In feeling remorse and understanding our state of brokenness, we acknowledge our sin before God (confession) and ask for His forgiveness. We ask for Jesus' death and resurrection to count on our behalf.
- We turn from our sinful nature and place God, His desires, and His truth as the primary and driving focus of our life.

 We willfully stop placing ourselves and our desires as the driving focus of our life. We willfully stop looking to our self or things other than Jesus to pull us out of brokenness, and we commit to follow God.

If we repent and believe, the Bible tells us that we will be saved. This means we will be saved from our sin and death, we will be reconciled to God, and we will be delivered from our state of brokenness. If we call upon the name of the Lord (through prayer), and we repent and declare our faith in Jesus as our substitute, forgiver, and savior, then we will be saved from sin and death. We will no longer face hell and eternal separation from God.

# **Pursue and Recover**

When we respond to the gospel through faith and repentance, we then begin a journey of pursuing and recovering a life under God's original design, knowing that our eternity with Him is forever sealed. When we truly repent and believe, our life will produce 'fruit'. We will see a changed life that is seeking to honor God and is placing Him first in our life. This will ALWAYS happen. The fruit of a changed life will always be evident. A lack of fruit is a sign that repentance and faith have not yet taken place.

# Talking to Your Child about the Gospel

This is a lot to talk through, describe, and explain to kids. Here are some general tips and practical suggestions to help you with these conversations:

- Avoid over-explaining concepts to younger children that might lead to confusion or a wrong emphasis.
- Take TIME, having multiple conversations as you go through this with kids. A one-time conversation will not be enough for them to wrestle with and grasp the truth of the gospel.
- Look for the small wins of understanding along the way.
- Don't get discouraged if you see them losing interest or not understanding right away. Every child learns in their own way and at their own speed. The key is to not rush the process, but be patient, realizing what is at stake.
- Keep the gospel and the love of God continually in front of your kids. Emulate the gospel to your kids and verbally point out how you see the gospel impacting all of life.
- Your kids will have a lot of spiritual questions. Make sure to answer them truthfully and simply, assuring them of God's love and care.
- Look for their genuine conviction of sin and a desire to repent. Don't force or rush this. It may take some time, but it is a necessary condition of their heart in relation to their response to the gospel.
- Don't put words into their mouth. Let your child come to understand the gospel at their own pace. They will grow in their ability to articulate repentance and faith as they mature.
- Plug into Berean Kids weekend programming, AWANA, and the Family Discipleship Plan for help and resources in having these conversations.
- Pray that your child will respond through repentance and faith to the gospel. Never give up!

Be careful to not emphasize avoidance of hell as the reason to turn to Jesus. Whereas it is important to talk about hell with your child, you don't want them to only focus on its avoidance. Wanting to avoid hell is not turning to Jesus with a heart of repentance and faith. It is good for them to be scared of or repulsed by hell, but simply wanting something better for themselves is still placing themselves at the center and forefront rather than Jesus. Make sure to clarify this with your child!

Remember to do your best in trying to discern the difference between whether they are expressing general spiritual curiosity, or true repentance and belief. Be careful not to manipulate and pressure them into responses that they neither understand nor genuinely embrace.

# Is My Child Ready to Respond to the Gospel?

How do you know when your child understands the truth of the gospel and is ready to make a genuine decision to turn to Jesus through repentance and faith? Here are a few things to look for:

#### **BEHAVIOR**

- An ongoing and repeated conviction of sin
- A changed behavior that is the result of true repentance
- Faith in Jesus Christ alone as the only one that can save us from sin
- Practically living with Christ as their Lord, putting Him and His commands first

# ARTICULATING THE GOSPEL

- Can they explain the basics of the gospel? It doesn't have to be perfect and super smooth, but they should be able to talk about sin, Jesus' death and resurrection, belief, repentance, salvation, and the Lordship of Christ.
- Can they explain how a person is saved? Do they understand the meaning of grace and the role it plays in the gospel?

### WILLINGESS TO RESPOND

- Have they seemed to abandon self-effort in getting out of their state of brokenness?
- Do they want to trust the work of Jesus on the cross for the forgiveness of their sin?
- Do they express affection for Jesus and a desire to follow Him?

These things should be looked for over a period of time. You don't want to jump to conclusions after a prayer. Time will tell if true conversion has happened. We can't know the true condition of a child's heart, but we can look for the fruit of the heart.

# **Baptism**

The next step after responding to the gospel by turning to Jesus through faith and repentance is to publically declare this decision through baptism. Here is some helpful information about baptism and determining if your child is ready to take this step.

# What is Baptism?

Baptism is simply your public declaration to the church body that you have turned to Jesus as your Lord and Savior through faith and repentance. Baptism does not bring salvation itself.

#### BAPTISM IS...

#### ■ Obedience to the Bible

Baptism is mentioned 70 times in the New Testament. Jesus Himself was baptized as an example for us. (Matthew 3:16-19) He commands all believers to be baptized.

#### ■ For Believers

Salvation is by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is for believers after they have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

# By Immersion

The word baptism means "to immerse". Every description of baptism in the New Testament was by immersion. The symbolism of baptism as described in Romans 6 can only be fulfilled through immersion.

# Symbolic

Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a visual picture that we have died to our sins and old way of life and are alive to a new life in Jesus. It demonstrates that Jesus died on the cross (going backwards into the water), was buried (under the water), and rose again (coming up out of the water) giving us the hope and promise of eternal life in Him. It identifies us with Christ and with His body, the church.

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### A Public Testimony to the Church

At Berean, baptism is required for membership. In the New Testament, baptisms took place with the local body of believers. The church family witnessed and celebrated this together. Baptism also ties us to Christians of all times, all over the world.

# For Believers, Not Infants

Some churches practice infant baptism or infant christening. They practice this with the intent to secure the eternity of a young child in heaven if they should die prior to reaching an age where they can put their faith in Christ. Here baptism is looked at as a saving act and pointing toward the faith that a child will one day possess. Berean only practices believer's baptism and not infant baptism as it is found nowhere in Scripture. Baptism is not a saving event, but rather a proclamation of a faith that is already possessed.

# Why is Baptism Important?

There are a few important reasons that we see in Scripture as to why we practice baptism and its importance.

- Jesus was baptized and commands the church to baptize. (Matthew 3:25-26; 28:18-20)

  Jesus set the example for His followers by being baptized Himself. He also commands us to 'make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'
- In Scripture, baptism is regularly connected with belief and salvation.
  In the New Testament, we see baptism following people responding to the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism indicates a new lifestyle and a commitment to follow Christ.
  Baptism represents a death of our old selves and a birth of our new life as we place Jesus Christ as Lord of our life.
- Baptism is public.

Our profession of faith in Jesus Christ as forgiver, Lord, and Savior is meant to be public. We are not to hide the fact that we have turned to Jesus. Baptism is the way that we publically state this decision.

# Who Can Be Baptized?

## BAPTISM IS FOR BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST

Baptism is designed for those who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ. For children, it is important to be absolutely sure they understand the gospel and have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

# EVERY CHRISTIAN IS TO BE BAPTIZED

An unbaptized Christian is not a state of existence that the Bible recognizes, nor should it be for Christians today. The natural progression for the Christian is to believe and then to be baptized. For children, we recommend a waiting period (approx. 6 months to a year) for parents to be able to watch for the fruits of true conversion, but for that reason only. When it becomes evident to a parent that a true conversion has taken place, steps toward baptism should begin to be taken.

# REPENTANCE AND BELIEF IN JESUS IS THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR BAPTISM

In the New Testament, nothing was required for baptism other than repentance of sins and belief in Jesus. Therefore, the same requirements hold for us today for both adults and children.

#### INFANTS SHOULD NOT BE BAPTIZED

As previously stated, infants are unable to make a profession of faith in response to the gospel, therefore they should not be baptized.

# **Next Steps**

What is the process for a child to be baptized at Berean? Here are five steps that will take you through the entire process:

# 1. PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION

If your child has expressed an interest in being baptized, we want to help you as their parent to lead them through a series of discussions. This will help you to walk them through the gospel as well as determine their readiness to take this step.

We suggest using the following tools in order to talk with your child about the gospel. You can use all or any combination of them.

- The Gospel: God's Plan for Me Booklet
  This small booklet walks kids through the message of the gospel using five simple
  phrases. You can pick one of these booklets up for free at our Berean Kids check-in
  stations. These booklets are used in our weekend programming, by small group leaders,
  and during VBS in order to keep the language used when talking about the gospel
  consistent. We recommend covering a phrase at a time (one a day) concluding with a
  review of the whole booklet after completing all sections. We also recommend going
  through the booklet multiple times until your child is able to talk through its concepts with
  understanding, on their own.
- Life on Mission App (Free through Google Play and Apple App Stores)
  This app provides a more visual explanation of the gospel that is used earlier in this packet. It will help you to talk through each aspect of the gospel as well as give your child a visual to remember it by.
- Key Components of the Gospel Section of this Packet As you read through the Key Components of the Gospel section of this packet, put together a presentation and discussion in your own words to use with your child. Make sure you don't do all of the talking. Ask good questions and let your child wrestle with the reality of their sin and the truth of Jesus' saving grace. We suggest going through a section at a time as to not overwhelm your child in one sitting. Repeated conversations is key.

# 2. WRITTEN TESTIMONY

We ask that all children write out their testimony. This will be submitted to the Family Pastor. Parents should help their child with the creation of this, but not dictate what they should write. Parents should simply act as a guide. The testimony should express the key elements of the gospel and salvation as well as to speak of their life before and after their conversion. There is no requirement to the length of this testimony. A paragraph or two are a good guideline to shoot for, but can be greater in length if desired.

#### 3. MEETING WITH A PASTOR

Children are required to meet, along with a parent, with the Family Pastor in preparation for baptism. The child will need to be able to answer simple questions about the gospel and their salvation. If a child is not willing to speak, they will not be approved to be baptized. Baptism candidates should be willing and able to share about their salvation. Together, the pastor and parent(s) will make a final decision as to the readiness of the child to take the step of baptism.

### 4. BAPTISM EVENT

All baptisms at Berean take place during one of our four yearly FaithFamily Celebrations at Berean. These events take place on select Sunday evenings. Those being baptized will be asked to join the Lead Pastor on stage and together answer a few questions in the affirmative about their salvation and intention to be baptized. They will then be led backstage to the baptismal and will be baptized before the church body. No verbal testimony is required other than the answering of the questions on stage.

### 5. FAMILY BAPTISM CELEBRATION

A child responding to the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and taking the step of baptism should be celebrated! We want to help your family create a special and intimate celebration within your home. Resources containing ideas to help with this celebration will be available at ParentU Training Events and through the online Family Discipleship Resource Center (coming soon!).

# Closing

The salvation and baptism of the next generation is something that we celebrate and want to take very seriously. Our hope is that this packet has provided a clear description of the gospel, helpful tools in talking about these things with your child, and a description of the baptism process for children. If you have further questions, please contact Ben Holden at <a href="mailto:benh@bereanbaptist.com">benh@bereanbaptist.com</a>.

We rejoice in seeing your child come to Christ and publically declare this decision to the body of Christ. We look forward to continuing our partnership as a church with your family in their discipleship process!

# Sources

The following sources were consulted in the creation of this packet:

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Preparing Your Child for Baptism by Josh Mulvihill

Helping Children to Understand the Gospel by Sally Michael, Jill Nelson, and Bud Burk