

LET'S TALK KIDS!

This guide will be helpful as you talk with your children (and even yourself) about baptism and salvation. Make sure they and you understand what it means to become a Christian first; followed by getting baptized. Look up the verses yourself as you go through this. It will help you grasp the truth of this if you take the time to read these verses for yourself in the Bible.

1

Have you **DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS?**
This important first decision means:

- ① You know **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to be part of his family. *"See how much our Father loves us, for He calls us his children, and that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1*
- ① You know you are **SINNER** and your sin separates you from God. This means you've done things that are wrong...and we **ALL** have done things that are wrong! The Bible says, *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23* And the results are terrible: Romans 6:23 tell us that the wages of sin is death.
- ① You **BELIEVE** that even though you sin, God loves you so very much that instead of punishing you with death and separation from God forever, He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for your sin. Jesus is the only way out of the mess of our sin. God raised Him from the dead so you can live forever with God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life." John 3:16*
- ① You have **REPENTED** or told God you're sorry for your sin and **RECEIVED** His forgiveness. *"If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and are not living in the truth. But, if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." 1 John 1:8-9*
- ① You've asked Jesus to be **IN CHARGE** of your life. This is **FAITH**. The Bible says that, *"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." Romans 10:9-10*

WELCOME
to the

FAMILY



Yay! You're part of God's family now and on His team! Did you know that when you decide to follow Jesus, there's a party in heaven? *Luke 15:7 says, "In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."* Pretty cool that there is so much joy in heaven when you make the decision to follow Jesus.

2

So, now that you're on God's team, **WHAT'S NEXT?** The first step of **OBEDIENCE** (doing what pleases God) is to get **BAPTIZED**.

- ① **JESUS & BAPTISM:** When you're on a team, you usually follow what the team leader does. Did you know that even Jesus got baptized to show whose team He was on and to please His father? Read about it in *Matthew 3:13*. Since you're letting Jesus lead your life and you've decided to be on God's team, it's good to follow His example.
- ① **GO PUBLIC WITH YOUR DECISION:** Another reason we get baptized is to show everyone you're on Jesus' team. It's kind of like putting the team jersey on...when you're wearing your team jersey, everyone knows you're on the team. When we get baptized, we stand in front of our church family so they know we're on Jesus' team. Wearing the team jersey sure makes the coach happy just as it makes God happy to see you showing off whose team you're on by getting baptized. It's that first step of obedience (making God happy) in your life with Christ.
- ① **BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL:** Baptism is an outward symbol or picture of what happened to you on the inside when you decided to follow Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun." When you go under the water during baptism, it is like when Jesus died on the cross & was buried...it symbolizes the death of your sins. When you come up out of the water, it is a picture of your old life washing away and the beginning of your new life with Jesus.