



# How Do I Know If I Am Ready?

**Step 1:** Have you decided to follow Jesus? This important first decision means:

## **RECOGNIZE** that you need a Savior

Everybody has done wrong things. It all started when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. (Genesis 2:17). Everyone who disobeys God—which is all of us—deserves death and to be separated from God (Romans 3:23 & Romans 6:23).

## **RECEIVE** Jesus as your Savior

God loves you so very much that He sent his son Jesus to die on the cross for your sin. There's nothing any of us can do to make up for the wrong things we have done (Ephesians 2:8-9). Jesus' rescue is a special gift God gives us for free. However, we have to decide to receive God's gift (Romans 10:9-10). When we choose to accept his gift, through faith, God sees us as his very own children (John 1:12) and part of his family forever!

## **RESPOND** by following Jesus

Now that you have discovered Jesus, have you decided to follow him no matter what? Jesus asks that we are obedient to him in response to his love for us!

# I Think I'm Ready!

**Step 2:** If you have said yes to all the questions in step 1, you are ready! Here's why you should get baptized:

## **JESUS DID & SO SHOULD WE**

Jesus got baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), and following Jesus means doing what he did! Jesus and his disciples tell us over and over to go and be baptized as followers of him.

## **Baptism is an OUTWARD EXPRESSION of an INWARD DECISION**

Baptism is an outward symbol of what happened to you on the inside when you decided to follow Jesus (Romans 6:3-10). 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.

**Baptism is a one-time, grand announcement that you want to follow Jesus forever!**

## **It's a way to SAY OUT LOUD that you follow Jesus!**

Another reason we get baptized is to show everyone you're on Jesus' team. You get to do this by sharing your story and showing your desire to follow Jesus by getting baptized.

## **Did you know that when you decide to follow Jesus, there's a party in heaven?**

Luke 15:7&10 says, "... there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away... there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents." **Pretty Awesome!**

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# SAY IT LOUD!

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**Baptism Weekend**  
**May 16-17, 2015**

If you are ready, we would like to invite you to be a part of this exciting day with us!

## NEXT STEPS

**1. Send an email to [baptism@gotocrosspoint.com](mailto:baptism@gotocrosspoint.com)**

including your name and preferred service for Baptism. Our Baptism Coordinator, Alex Leitzke, will follow up with you.

**2. Write Your Testimony**

That's a fancy word for your story about how God's changing your life. Please use the following prompts to help you write a paragraph or two:

- When did you decide that you wanted to follow Jesus? Where were you, who was with you, how did you feel?
- Was there someone special who helped you understand who Jesus is? If so, who are they and how did they help you?
- How has your life changed since you decided to follow Jesus?
- Why get baptized now? Why is it important to you?

**3. Invite your Friends and Family!**

This guide is only the beginning. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [baptism@gotocrosspoint.com](mailto:baptism@gotocrosspoint.com).



# BAPTISM

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## SAY IT LOUD

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**MAY 16 – 17, 2015**