



SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH

We're excited that you are considering being baptized at Salem Alliance Church. This is an important step in your faith journey because baptism is a public declaration identifying you as a follower of Jesus Christ.

In biblical times baptisms were held in public places where family and friends gathered to witness the event. Today baptism services at Salem Alliance continue in that tradition so Christ-followers have an opportunity to openly express their commitment and allegiance to Jesus. Walking into the water symbolizes the end of your old way of life without Jesus Christ. Coming up out of the water is a picture of our spiritual rebirth in Christ and our victory over sin and death. The Apostle Paul compares this life change to putting on a new set of clothes in Galatians 3:27: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

It is important that you take time to read through the material in this packet. There are instructions on the next page outlining the steps to be baptized at Salem Alliance Church. Please complete the necessary pages and **bring them with you** to the Baptism Class in order to secure a spot in one of our baptism services.

We are truly excited for all who are ready to make their relationship with Jesus a matter of public record through baptism. This act of commitment and dedication honors God and fulfills the commandment of scripture given by the Lord Jesus Himself: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

May God bless you as you prepare!

The Salem Alliance Baptism Team

Adult Baptism

This packet will help you understand what the Bible says about baptism, give you the steps to being baptized at Salem Alliance Church and prepare you for the day you enter the water to be baptized.

Before being baptized at Salem Alliance Church, you must:

- Register online for & attend the Baptism Class
- Complete a Baptism Packet and bring it with you to the Baptism Class

Please check our web site for details on the next available Baptism Class and Baptism Weekend:

<http://sailemalliance.org/resources/spiritual-resources/baptism> . This page contains details about the schedule and then you can click the "Information/Register" link button at the bottom of the page.

Baptism Packet Instructions:

In this Baptism Packet you will find:

- A fill-in-the-blank page that you can use during Baptism Class to follow along with the teaching and understand what the Bible says about baptism.
- Several passages from the Bible that will give you references to baptism.
- "My Faith Story" - a few questions that will help you write out your faith story. Your short answers to these questions are used to craft a brief, unique story of your journey with God that features your reason for being baptized. Feel free to finish your answers on the back of the page as needed, but please understand that we are ultimately editing your answers down to about 6 sentences which will be read as you come up to the platform for baptism.

Please complete and bring these pages with you to the Baptism Class.

At the Baptism Class, come prepared to:

- Experience a short teaching on baptism including biblical references to baptism.
- Talk about what you've learned from your study of God's word
- Be introduced to a Salem Alliance Pastor or Elder who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized
- Have your picture taken to be shown at your baptism while your faith story is read
- Finalize details of your baptism, including: date/day/time/baptizer.
- Tour the locations and see the process of baptism as it occurs during weekend services.
- Turn in parts of this packet information, including your completed Faith Story by the end of Baptism Class.

Again, we are excited that you are exploring this next step in your walk with Christ.

Please contact Melanie Pfaff if you have any questions at mpfaff@sailemalliance.org or by asking for her at 503.581.2129.

Baptism Study Guide

The Meaning of Baptism: What is Baptism?

Please read the passages below from the Bible and answer the following questions:

A. **Matthew 3:13-16**

Jesus' Baptism

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me? ¹⁵ But Jesus said, It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires. So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on

* Where was Jesus baptized? _____

* Who baptized Jesus? _____

* According to verse 15, why was Jesus baptized? _____

B. **Matthew 28:18-20**

Jesus Sends His

Followers into the World

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

* What did Jesus ask His followers to do in these verses? _____

* In whose names are we to be baptized? _____

C. **Romans 6:2-4**

² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

* What 2 things does the act of baptism symbolize in the life of every follower of

Christ? _____

Summary: (leave blank until class/pastor will fill in with you)

1. Matthew 3:13-16 Baptism is an act of _____

2. Matthew 28:18-20 Baptism is an act of _____

3. Romans 6:2-4 Baptism symbolizes _____

According to these verses, baptism is not: (leave blank)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why Should I Be Baptized?

Baptism is a public celebration of our new life in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:2-4).

When you enter the water you are saying, "_____."

When we come up out of the water we are saying, "_____."

Everyone who witnesses your Baptism will know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

When Should I Be Baptized?

Please read the passages below from the Bible and answer the following questions:

A. **Acts 2:36-41**

*Many are Saved
and Baptized*

³⁶ "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"³⁷ Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

* How did the people in verse 37 respond to the news about Jesus Christ?

* What did Peter instruct them to do in verse 38?

1. _____
2. _____

B. **Acts 16:29-33**

*Others are Saved
and Baptized*

²⁹ The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." ³² And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³ Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized."

* What did Paul & Silas' jailer want to know in verse 30? _____

* How did Paul & Silas respond to their jailer in verse 31? _____

* What does this passage tell us about the timing of Baptism in the life of a Christ-follower? _____

Summary: *(leave blank until class/pastor will fill in with you)*

According to these verses in Acts, baptism occurs _____

How Should I Be Baptized?

Please read the passage below from the Bible and answer the following questions:

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

* According to verse 16, how was Jesus baptized? _____

Leave blank until class/pastor will fill in with you

* "Baptism" comes from the Greek word _____ which means _____

* This method of baptism was the standard approach used in the scriptures, and is the method we follow at Salem Alliance Church to this day.

Key Questions For You To Answer:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and died for your sins?
2. Have you confessed your sins and asked for forgiveness?
3. Do you desire to be baptized as a symbol of your new life in Christ?
4. Are you prepared to obey Christ for the rest of your life?

My Faith Story

Turn this page in
at Baptism Class!

Please complete and bring with you to the Baptism Class.

Name: _____

Using this sheet, take some time to reflect on how you became a follower of Christ. In preparation to be baptized, it is important for you to articulate your story and faith in Jesus Christ. Think through your answers to the following questions and then share with us how God has been at work in your life. Thanks so much for your willingness to share and allowing us to celebrate what Jesus has done in you.

Ultimately, we are looking for 5-6 sentences describing your faith journey and why you are choosing baptism. We will edit your responses below to come up with that summary, which is read aloud while you come up for baptism.

1. Describe briefly the spiritual realities in your life before you entered into a relationship with God.
2. What happened in your life that brought you into a relationship with God? When and why did you become a follower of Christ?
3. What is your understanding of the meaning of the cross for someone who is a follower of Jesus Christ?
4. What changes have been happening in your life since you became a Christ-follower?
5. What is something you are learning from Christ right now? What is He teaching you now?
6. Why is it important to you to be baptized now?
7. If you could see Jesus, today, how would you react to/interact with Him?

Feel free to use the back of this page if you need more space for your answers.

Please turn this in to your Pastor or Elder at class with your completed Final Confirmation Sheet attached.

Pastor or Elder: *Please complete the bottom section of the Final Confirmation and turn in with this page in to Melanie Pfaff. Thank you!*