



SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH

Grade
School
Baptism
Packet

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!

Cary Wood
Coordinator of Next Steps

Grade School Baptism

This packet and Baptism class 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:

- Register online & attend the Baptism Class.
- Please complete “My Faith Story”
 - These questions are designed to 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. Your answers will be edited to about 6 sentences which will be read as you come up to the platform for baptism.

Baptism Class

Baptism Class on Sunday afternoon includes:

- Introduction
- A short teaching on baptism
- Speaking with a Salem Alliance Pastor or Elder who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized
- Finalizing details of your baptism, including: date/day/time/baptizer
- Touring the locations and see the process of baptism as it occurs during weekend services
- An opportunity to ask any questions you may have about baptism

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

Please contact Cary Wood if you have any questions. She can be reached via email at nextsteps@salemalliance.org or at 503.581.2129.

Baptism Packet Instructions

Please complete these **At Home Assignments** before the Baptism Class:

- Read through the section in this packet on Baptism with your parent.
- Complete the “BELIEVE AND BE BAPTIZED” section.
- Tell your parent or special adult about when you received Christ as your Savior and have them help you complete the “This Is the Story of How I Came to Know Jesus as My Savior” sheet.
- Ask two people to tell you about when they received Jesus as their Savior. Where were they? How did it happen?
- Complete the “BAPTISM INTERVIEW” sheet with your parent.
- Ask two people to tell you the story about when they were baptized.

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

At the Baptism Class, come prepared to:

- Talk about what you’ve learned from your study of God’s word
- Talk with a Grade School Pastor who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized
- Confirm which service you would prefer your baptism to occur.
- Share your faith story by reading it aloud to the small group at class. You won’t have to read it in front of the whole church though – it will be read aloud by someone else as you come up to be baptized.

Again, we are excited that you are exploring this next step in your walk with Christ.
If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

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WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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.” Matthew 28:18-20

QUESTION: Does this mean anyone who becomes a follower of Christ should be baptized? There is only one thing necessary in order to be baptized. Do you know what it is?

ANSWER: A person must believe in Jesus as his/her Savior in order to be baptized.

· **A** Admit – “I’m a sinner. I’m sorry!”

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

· **B** Believe – “I believe Jesus died for my sins.”

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.” John 3:36

· **C** Choose – “I accept Jesus as my Savior.”

“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. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

God chose to use baptism as a picture or reminder of what happens when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.

When Jesus was on earth people often come to Him and asked to be forgiven of their sins. Jesus would then have His disciples baptize them. They would go to a river or a pool and gently be put under the water and then be brought back up again. Doing this showed all the people who were looking on, that the person's sin had been washed away and he had started a new life, clean from sin.

We do this today still because Jesus told us to baptize each new believer as a sign of their new life in Christ.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

When you are baptized, you are showing people what has happened in your life– all your sins were buried with Christ and you came to new life in Him.

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Going down under the water... is the reminder that Jesus died and was buried for our sins. Coming up out of the water... is the reminder of His resurrection and our new eternal life in Him.

Baptism is your way to tell people who watch you that you believe Jesus died for your sins, in your place, and you want to live the rest of your life with Him.

BELIEVE AND BE BAPTIZED

Read the story found in Acts 8:26-39. Ask your mom or dad or another adult to help you with this assignment. Read the story together. They can write as you give them answers or you may do it yourself.

1. What was the important question Philip asked the Ethiopian man? (v. 30)
2. Then what did the Ethiopian man ask Philip to do? (v. 31)
3. Verses 32 & 33 were written about Jesus before He was born. What do you think it meant? Why do you think the man didn't understand this?
4. What do you think the "Good News about Jesus" is? (v. 35)
5. Before you are baptized, what needs to happen to you?

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE CHALLENGE QUESTIONS?

Will reading your Bible, going to church, doing lots of kind things, or having a Christian family take away your sins?

Will being baptized take away your sin?

What do you need to do in order to have your sins forgiven and taken away?

Why then should you be baptized?

***This is the Story of How I Came
Know Jesus as My Savior:***

Turn this page in
at Baptism

	Name
	Date

At Baptism class, we will ask you to share your faith story by reading it aloud to the small group at class. You won't have to read it in front of the whole church though. It will be read aloud by someone else as you come up to be baptized.

BAPTISM INTERVIEW

1. What do you know God to be like?
2. Who is Jesus? What do you know about Him?
3. We call people who follow Jesus "Christians." How can a person become a Christian?
4. Why do you want to be baptized?
5. What is something Jesus is teaching you now that you are _____ years old?
6. If you could see Jesus right now, what might you say or do?

Student Signature _____ Grade/School _____

Parent Signature _____

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

Pastor: *Please complete the bottom section of the Final Confirmation and turn in with the last two pages into Cary Wood. Thank you!*