

When I Get Baptized!

1. HOW IT STARTED

Mark 1:

3. "This messenger will live out in the barren wilderness," Isaiah said, "and will proclaim that everyone must straighten out his life to be ready for the Lord's arrival."
4. This messenger was John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness and taught that all should be baptized as a public announcement of their decision to turn their backs on sin, so that God could forgive them.



Have you ever got mad and hit your brother or sister, or a friend? Hurting others, lying, doing things we know are wrong... we do them for a reason. God says it's because there is something called 'SIN' that lives inside of each and every one of us. A wild looking guy named John the Baptist told people they needed to turn their backs on sin. He would make speeches telling people they should do this. Afterwards, He would dunk people in the Jordan River. This was a way of showing they were serious about trying, and that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done.

2. JESUS GETS BAPTIZED

Matthew 3:

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized there by John.

14. John didn't want to do it. "This isn't proper," he said. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you."
15. But Jesus said, "Please do it, for I must do all that is right." So then John baptized him.

Can you imagine if Jesus showed up at your church and asked your pastor to baptize Him? Wouldn't that blow your socks off? ...Even if you still had your shoes on!! Well that's what happened when Jesus went to see Wildman, John the Baptist. John was blown away that Jesus wanted to be baptized. Why would God want to be baptized? The big reason is: 1. Jesus was being an example. 2. He was showing us it was the right thing to do because that's what God wanted. And 3. He was showing us it was very IMPORTANT!



3. THE CROSS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Acts 2:

36. "Therefore I clearly state to everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus you crucified to be the Lord, the Messiah!"
37. These words of Peter's moved them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

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38. And Peter replied, "Each one of you must turn from sin, return to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you also shall receive this gift, the Holy Spirit.

Oh man! Peter really gave it to them. Peter was talking to a big crowd and he let them know that all the wrongs that they did, and all the wrong that lived inside of them, had cost God's Only Son His life. The Bible teaches that everyone who gets to Heaven has something very special alive inside of them. It is called 'spiritual life.' It is God living inside of us. What happens when God is inside? We begin to think in kinder and better ways. We begin to think like Jesus. The things that are important to Jesus become important to us. God loves everyone, but He is very picky about one thing; He won't live in the same heart as sin. To have God inside we need to stop holding on to all the wrong stuff, give it to God to put in his big 'garbage disposal', and then let Him show us how to live. When we do that, Jesus saves us from living a terrible life and from going to a terrible eternity after we die. That's what it means to be saved. Boy that sounds pretty important! So how do we know when we're 'saved'? No mystery! This is what God says:

Romans 10:

8. For salvation that comes from trusting Christ--which is what we preach--is already within easy reach of each of us; in fact, it is as near as our own hearts and mouths.

9. For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10. For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation.

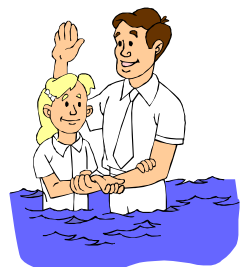
11. For the Scriptures tell us that no one who believes in Christ will ever be disappointed.

Being saved is as easy... and as hard as this: You say in your mind, "Yes Jesus, I believe that you are God's Only Son and that makes you God too. I believe I should live my life with you as the boss. I believe that you will live inside me, and as I read your words, and listen really closely in my heart, you will show me how to live. Now that I said it with my mind, I'll say it with my mouth, and I'll say it in the new way I act. I'll show it by how I treat my family and my friends, and even my enemies. And I know things will be hard and even hurt sometimes, but you will never disappoint me if I keep you living inside me."

Have you done this? Baptism means nothing at all if we haven't. And it means everything in the world if we do!

4. WHEN WE GET BAPTIZED

Now that we are saved, what does it mean when we get baptized?



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It means we are doing something with our bodies that shows what we feel in our hearts. We do it all the time! When you give your mom or dad a kiss, it's not because their face tastes good! No, you kiss them with your mouth, because you love them with your heart. Baptism is kind of the same thing, it is how we show God we love Him and want to take Him very seriously. It is the first thing He tells us to do when He comes to live inside of us. Boy, wouldn't we be off to a bad start if we disobeyed at the very first step!!



But why get dunked in a big tub of water?

The water is to remind us of a couple of things:

When we go down in the water, it reminds us that we are taking the 'old us', the us that has always tried to get our own way, and do all kinds of wrong things- and we are burying that 'old us.' Have you ever been to a garbage dump?

They have great big machines just to dig great big holes to put all our stinky and yucky stuff under the earth where we don't have to see it or smell it anymore. Baptism is kind of like that- we are burying the old bad stuff that used to live inside.

When we come up out of the water, it is to remind us that God washes us clean. It's getting cleaned up on the inside instead of the outside.

It reminds us of something else very important. The Bible tells us that Jesus died for our sins, but that's not the end of the story! God, the Father didn't let Him stay dead! The Bible says, since Jesus obeyed God, the Father until the very end, He gave Him new life, life that would never end, a life that would be really great. Jesus would be highly honored and live forever right beside God the Father. And God promises us the same thing if we follow Jesus' example. When we come up out of the water, it is to help us remember that.

So going down and coming up from the water reminds us that we are: **1. Putting down our old self. 2. Coming up a new self. 3. And as we follow the example of Jesus, we will have the same future...** nice home in Heaven and everything!

5. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

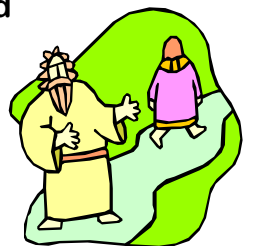
Romans 6

1. Well then, shall we keep on sinning so that God can keep on showing us more and more kindness and forgiveness?

2. Of course not! Should we keep on sinning when we don't have to? For sin's power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ; through his death the power of your sinful nature was shattered.

4. Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died, and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy.

When we come out of the water, the journey is not done, it's just begun!! After we are baptized it doesn't mean we will never get angry again, or we won't be



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tempted to steal our sisters Easter candy or tell mom, "It wasn't me!" when it really was. Those old ways will keep trying to come up, out of that place you buried them in baptism. But the difference is; now you have a choice. The wrong way doesn't have to win out anymore. And the longer and the closer you follow Jesus, the more those old ways will fall back into the 'garbage dump' hole.



6. BEING FRIENDS WITH GOD

The Bible says that old sinful self could never really be friends with God. But the *new you* can! God will live inside of us, and be our friend in this life. And in time, we will get to see Him face to face. HOW COOL IS THAT!!

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PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BAPTISM

What to wear

Men please wear a white T-shirt and light colored slacks. Women wear a swim suit, or a light top and slacks. The church will provide baptismal robes but please keep in mind they are quite transparent once they are wet. By tradition, the church furnishes towels, but it would be a good idea to bring a towel with you as well as a change of clothes. In the baptismal, no shoes or socks should be worn.

Where to meet

Please meet with the pastor at 9:15 in the choir room (left as you face the platform). At the point of baptism, women will be given the left, choir room as a changing room, and the men, the right room. We will enter the baptismal along the stage back hall, and exit to our prospective rooms to change. Baptisms outside of the church will be arranged between the pastor and candidates on a case by case basis.

How we'll do it

The candidate, properly robed or clothed, will enter the water, face the congregation and, at the pastor's invitation, share his or her assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ. (*A sample of assurance is printed below*) The candidate will then turn to the right and, as the minister begins the words, "I baptize you...", he or she will clasp the minister's wrist with both hands. The minister, holding a folded handkerchief over the candidate's nose and mouth and placing his other hand back of the candidate's shoulders, will lower him or her backward into the water. The minister will then assist the candidate to an upright position.

Mom and dad, have your child write out a short explanation and keep it in a safe place.

Sample: Vows of Assurance

Minister: Do you know that you are God's child through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Is it your earnest desire to follow Christ in death to self and to walk with Him in newness of Life?

Candidate: It is

Minister: _____, upon your confession of faith in the Lord Jesus, and by this step of obedience, **I baptize you*** in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Time at which candidate is lowered into the water.*

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6. God is my friend, this is what it means to me:



4. Getting baptized is to show I am:



Putting down my _____
 Coming up my _____
 And I will follow the example of _____
 I am obeying _____

5. What happens next



Now that I am baptized, the bad stuff doesn't just go away. But now I have a _____

3. The Cross changes everything.



My sins have caused this to happen:

Baptism doesn't mean anything unless I'm saved. I know I'm saved because:

2. Jesus gets baptized



Jesus got baptized because:

1. _____
2. _____
3. It was very, very, _____

1. How it started



Being baptized by 'Wildman John' meant:

This is how you felt about your sin-

This is what you would try to do-

When I Get Baptized!

TEACHER'S COPY WITH ANSWERS:

When I Get Baptized

6. God is my friend, this is what it means to me:

Being friends with God



As child understands it.

When we get baptized



4. Getting baptized is to show I am:
Putting down my **old self**
Coming up my **new self**
And I will follow the example of **Jesus**
I am obeying **God**

What happens next



5. Now that I am baptized, the bad stuff doesn't just go away. But now I have a **choice!**

The Cross changes everything!



3.

My sins have caused this to happen:

Jesus to die on the cross

Baptism doesn't mean anything unless I'm saved. I know I'm saved because:

Believe in your heart, Jesus is Lord

Say with your mouth, Jesus is Lord

Say in the way I act, Jesus is Lord

Jesus gets baptized



2.

Jesus got baptized because:

1. **He was being an example**

2. **The right thing to do- God wants it**

3. It was very, very, **important**

1.

Being baptized by 'Wildman John' meant:

This is how you felt about your sin-

Sorry

This is what you would try to do-

Turn away from sin

How it started

