

So Your Child Wants To Be Baptized

By

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This booklet is designed as an aid to parents whose children are showing interest in being baptized. This is such an important time in a child's life, as he is contemplating, whether he realizes it or not, THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION THEY COULD EVER MAKE. Parents are reminded that the weightiness of this matter demands much prayer, Scripture study and sober-mindedness, especially on their part.

Parents are often frightened and fraught with misgivings that such an important decision could be made by such a young child. Their fears and apprehensions should be eased considerably, however, by differentiating between two decisions that are made at such a time.

The parents must make the first decision. The parents must decide if the child is old enough or mature enough to take this serious step. Of course, the younger the child, the more difficult the parents' decision is. We will recommend no particular age in this booklet. Every child must be considered individually. Many parents attempt to avoid making this decision, because of the difficulty involved, but it cannot be avoided. We hope this booklet will be a valuable tool to help you make the right decision.

The second decision is that of the child obeying the gospel, providing, of course, that the parents have determined that they are ready for such a decision. In the final analysis, the child must be impressed with the fact that it is his decision. Parents certainly should encourage their children to commit themselves to Christ as Saviour and Lord, but the child shouldn't be made to feel that he has to do it for mom or for dad. The fact that you are considering

this booklet probably means that you are seriously contemplating allowing your child to profess their faith and be baptized. Use of this material should help both you and your child.

So then, we have two purposes for publishing, "So Your Child Wants To Be Baptized." Both are aimed at pleasing God. We are seeking to help you guide your child, and seeking to help your child know the basic facts that are essential to understanding such a vital decision. To determine just how much a child should know before they make a decision for Christ is difficult, but one thing is sure: We must do all we can to ensure that the decision is based on an understanding of Whom and what is being chosen.

It is important, we think, to remember that baptism is a birth, and that God has a great plan of growth and learning for a lifetime ahead of your child. After all, how much could the Ethiopian have known (Acts 8:26-39)?

CONTENTS

The following pages provide a guide for a Scriptural study of some basic concepts that everyone should consider and grasp before being baptized into Jesus. There are seven lessons or daily devotional guides containing Scripture passages and questions designed to help you child understand the decision they are considering. You may include other passages, in addition to these, as you help your child build toward a firmly-based decision.

A brief review or "final exam" is included to aid both you and your child in making a decision. The material is designed to be covered in one week, but you may want to progress slower or more rapidly, depending on the age, maturity, or previous training of your child.

Your church leaders stand ready to assist you in any way, and they are not avoiding working with you or your child by recommending this booklet. They simply feel that approaching this matter as parent and child is the God-ordained arrangement. Our prayers are with you as you lead your child to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON 1

The Deity of Jesus Or Who is Jesus?

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-18

Read the passage together. Talk about the meaning of what is said and done. Use the review questions below to aid your child's understanding of Who Jesus is.

1. What question did Jesus ask His followers first?
2. What answer did they give?
3. What was Jesus' second question?
4. Who answered the second question?
5. What was his answer? (Impress upon the child that these are the ten most important words a person can ever say.)
6. What would be built upon this fact of Who Jesus is?
7. Who would build the church? (Explain that the church refers to people not a building.)
8. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 2

Jesus Death Or Why Did He Die?

Scripture: Matthew 26:26-28; Matthew 27:22-38

Read the passages one at a time -- clarify using the questions below.

1. At the last supper, what did Jesus say about His body?
2. He said His blood would be shed for what reason?
3. What does remission or forgiveness of sins mean?
4. Did Jesus go willingly to Calvary? Why?
5. God has said that the one who sins shall die and that the penalty of sin is death. Who paid sins penalty for you?
6. Does this mean you won't die? What does it mean?
7. Whose sins caused Jesus to go to the cross?
8. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 3

The Resurrection Or What happened the third day?

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-20

Read together and clarify using the questions below.

1. What was done with the body of Jesus after He died?
2. What did the women find at the tomb?
3. What did the angel tell them about Jesus?
4. What did Jesus tell them to do?
5. What explanation did the Jewish leaders make up?
6. Did Jesus go see the disciples after He had been raised from the dead?
7. What did He tell them at the end?
8. What happened to Jesus? (read Acts 1:9-11)
9. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 4

The First Conversions Or What happened on the Day of Pentecost?

Scripture: Acts 2:1-47

Read together and clarify using the questions below.

1. Who was given power by the Holy Spirit?
2. What was the message that Peter preached?
3. What happened to make it clear that Jesus was God's Son?
4. What did the man say when they heard Peter's sermon?
5. What did Peter tell them to do?
6. What did they do? How many?
7. What happened to their sins?
8. What did they do after they were baptized?
9. Did they spread the message to anyone else? How?
10. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 5

The Ethiopian Converted Or What did he do to become a Christian?

Scripture: Acts 8:26-41

Read together and clarify using the questions below.

1. Who helped this man learn about Jesus?
2. What passage in the Old Testament was the man reading?
3. What did the Ethiopian want Philip to do to help him?
4. Whom did Philip preach from this passage?
5. Who did he say this Scripture was talking about? (Read Isaiah 53)
6. What did the Ethiopian want to do?
7. What happened when Philip baptized him?
8. What did the Ethiopian do after he was baptized?
9. What did Philip do after he left the Ethiopian?
10. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 6

The Conversion of Paul Or What happened on the road?

Scripture: Acts 9:1-22

Read together and clarify using the questions below.

1. What was Saul's doing to the disciples of Jesus?
2. Why did he go to the synagogue?
3. Where did he want to go and why?
4. What happened to him on the way to Damascus?
5. Who talked to him and what did this person tell him?
6. Where did He tell Saul to go and who did he say would tell him what to do?
7. What was he told to do after his blindness left and what did he do?
8. How did his life change after he was baptized?
9. What did he begin to preach and to prove after his conversion?
10. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 7

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

Or

Why do we drink of the cup and the Loaf?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Read together - Clarify using the review questions below.

1. Do you remember what Jesus told His disciples about His body and His blood during their last supper on earth together?
(Review Lesson 2 if you have forgotten)
2. Did they remember to do as Jesus had told them?
3. Of what does the grape juice remind us?
4. Of what does the bread or cracker remind us?
5. What are we saying by our actions when we do this each Sunday?
6. What should we be thinking about during communion?
7. What should we do during the communion time?
8. How will partaking of the Lord's Supper help us follow Jesus?
9. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT IN THIS LESSON?

LESSON 8

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Conditions of Salvation

Or

How shall I respond to Jesus to receive salvation?

Look up each Scripture below and write down what each says a person did or was told to do to obey the Gospel.

1. Mark 16:15,16
2. John 3:16-18
3. Acts 16:31-34
4. Acts 3:19-23
5. Matthew 10:32,33
6. Romans 10:9-13
7. Acts 2:38-41
8. Acts 22:16
9. Is it possible to know for sure we are saved? (1 John 5:11-13)

A Brief Review:

1. Jesus Christ is _____ Son.
2. Jesus _____ on the cross for _____ sins.
3. On the third day after He died Jesus _____ from the grave.
4. Those who follow Jesus by faith through believing and obeying are _____ of their sins and are given the gift of the _____.
5. We should remember to be faithful to God by continuing in four elements of service/worship. What are they?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

An Important Suggestion on Recording This Life-changing Decision.

Write down all the reasons that you want to be baptized into Jesus.

(Parents: Have your child do this on a piece of stationary and then seal it in an envelope. If they ever question their baptism, they can then look at the reasons that they gave for deciding to follow Him so they can be assured of their decision.)

SOME CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE EDITORS.....

Please call on your preacher if you have any questions concerning your child's decision. We are confident that he will assist you and counsel you with love and concern.

If your child desires to be baptized and you have decided that he or she may take this great step, you may want to set up a time to have them see the baptistry and have the procedure explained to them.

As we continue to reach for the goal of restoring New Testament Christianity, more and more parents are discovering the joy of baptizing their own children into Christ. Be assured that this is not only scripturally acceptable, but also very fitting. Of course, your minister will be happy to baptize your child.

Please do not expect too much from your child. A child has a childlike faith. Do not expect them to know everything that you might feel is important. A child must grow in wisdom as well as in stature. Just as you are helping them to be born spiritually, you will need to help your child grow spiritually.

We praise the Lord that your child wants to become a Christian. Our prayers are with you as you disciple your precious little girl or boy. May your life in Christ be an example that your little one can follow.