

Baptism

As a follower of Christ, your child's next step is baptism.

At Alive Kids we start talking to kids about baptism in the 1st Grade. Your child hears the Salvation message every week in class and hears about Baptism several times throughout the year. When we have a Baptism Celebration at Alive Church we take all of the kids in 1st-12th Grade in to watch. If your child asks about baptism here are some things you can talk about with them.

Explain: Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did through His death, burial and resurrection. He tells us to be baptized to show others that we follow Him. This is symbolized by:

- Us joining with Jesus in His death (our public statement).
- His burial (us going under the water).
- His resurrection (us coming up out of the water).



Look Up Matthew 3:1-16, Matthew 28:16-20 and John 3:1-21

Ask: Does this mean you'll never sin again?

Look Up 1 John 1:8-10 and Romans 6:1-5

No. You should not live a life that chooses sin, but you will continue to make mistakes (sin). Only Jesus lived a sinless life.

Ask: When you sin again, what do you do?

Most kids are more worried about getting in trouble by Mom or Dad when they do something wrong than asking God for forgiveness, so it's hard for them to not connect "getting in trouble" when we talk about God and sin. Make sure they understand that it's by the grace and love of Jesus that our sins are forgiven. The answer is to confess or "say" your sins to God in prayer and sometimes to the person we have done wrong to.

If you feel that your child is ready for baptism the next step is to make an appointment to meet with the Alive Kids Director (Sheri Marsden: sheri@alivechurch.com) or the Youth Pastor (Cody Kiwaczyk: cody@alivechurch.com). They will help decide if your child is ready to be baptized. We encourage you to remind your child that baptism is a public statement of their decision to follow Jesus. Baptism can happen at church during a Baptism Celebration or on your own as a family.

Salvation

Is my child ready to ask Jesus to be Leader of their life?

At Alive Kids our mission is "Leading kids to be followers of Jesus". Use the following 5 questions to help you determine if your child is ready to ask Jesus to be the Leader of their life by putting their faith in Him. Remember, there is no magic to the questions. The main goal is to determine if your child recognizes that their own sin separates them from God and that Jesus' death on the cross makes them right with God. You will also find some things to say if your child doesn't seem to be grasping these spiritual concepts. Make sure you read the suggested verses as tools to help you.

Who is Jesus?

Look Up Matthew 3:16-17

This is an easy question to answer and will get your child comfortable with answering questions. Their answer will be pretty simple - **"He's God's Son"**.

What is sin? Then ask: Have you ever sinned?

Look Up Romans 3:23

Younger kids may not understand the word sin. In Alive Kids, we teach kids that sin is lying, cheating, stealing, angry outbursts, doing bad things, or even thinking bad thoughts, etc. Talk about these things with your child recognizing that all of us sin. Feel free to help by talking about things that you may do wrong and how those sins get in the way of your friendship with God. Ultimately, you're looking for your child to identify specific sins in their lives.

What did Jesus do on the cross? Why did He have to die?

Look Up 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Again, these should be simple responses - **"Jesus died on the cross"** or **"Jesus died for our sins"** or **"So we could be forgiven"**.

NOTE: If you don't feel that your child understands either what sin is or that Jesus died to take our sins away, then simply table the discussion. You might say something like, "I'd like us to keep talking about this more over the next few months."

What happens to our sin when we ask Jesus to forgive us and we say or confess our sins out loud? Look Up 1 John 1:9

Most responses will be very simple - **"Jesus takes away our sins"**.

In our Alive Kids class we use the ABC acrostic to help the kids understand asking Jesus to be the Leader of your life.

(A)dmitt: Admit that you have sinned and ask Jesus to forgive you.

(B)elieve: Believe that Jesus loves you and came to earth to die on the cross for your sins.

(C)hoose: Choose to make Jesus the leader of your life.

Do you want to ask Jesus to be the Leader of your life? If yes, then great! This is the best part. Here is a prayer you may use. Have your child repeat each line after you.

"Dear Jesus, I am a sinner and I need you to save me.

Thank you for dying on the cross. Because of this, I am forgiven.

I want you to be the leader of my life. Help me live my life for you. Amen."

Congratulations!

You've just led your child into a relationship with Jesus. There are few experiences as valuable as this! The next step is very important; encourage your child to get baptized! As a parent you can help your child to continue to grow their relationship with Jesus through helping them read their Bible, prayer and attending church.