

# Roadmap to Baptism

## Goals

- **Prepare your child for baptism.** Baptism is one of the two sacraments of Baptist faith. It is the holy outward sign of the inward change that happens in the life of a Christian. If your child is beginning to ask about faith and baptism, this is a holy command Christians are called to follow. Thus, we take this process seriously and have outlined a roadmap to baptism to prepare your child for this sacred ordinance that Jesus commanded of his followers.
- **Take the discipleship journey.** We have outlined a process to prepare your child for baptism. We want to obey the command to repent and be baptized, but we want to walk in wisdom with our children whose young minds and hearts are encountering this powerful gospel. This next season has potential to be some of the most impactful discipleship you do with your child that could make an eternal lasting impact.

## Know

- **Children are unique.** We treat children differently than adults in our approach to baptism. One of the biggest challenges in Baptist theology is knowing when to baptize. There are too many people that grew up in Baptist churches, went through baptism as a right-of-passage without fully understanding what that meant, and then later left the church because they never understood or believed the gospel. We are committed to baptism not being a right-of-passage by baptizing any child who is not ready, and this roadmap to baptism is designed to help with that. Thus, the baptism process with children is different than adults, but we believe this to be wise.
- **We take it slow.** The Bible does not outline how we are supposed to walk children through baptism, it just tells us to “repent and be baptized”. Because children are unique, we take baptism slow with them. There is not set timeline, so follow this roadmap to baptism at the pace you believe is wisest for your child.

## Do

- **Engage their mind.**

Romans 10:9 is a simple verse on how we are saved: **because, 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.** However, this verse can lead to many questions: “what is confession?”, “what is meant by Jesus is Lord?”, “who is God?”, “what does heart-belief look like?”, “how does Jesus’ work save us?”, and “what are we saved from?”- children need to know what it means to be saved. Our children need more than asking Jesus into their heart (which comes from this passage) in order to appreciate everything Jesus has done for us.

## • Gospel Question Guide

These 15 questions will help your child understand the gospel: who God is, who we are, and what believing in God means. The goal is not passing a test but knowing God. You'll know the best way to ask these questions. It could be a fun game, a bedtime routine, or questions for the road. Make it fun and engaging to teach your child the most important truths they could ever know.

### 15 Gospel Questions

1. Who is God?
  - a. There are three persons and one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
2. Why did God make us?
  - a. To glorify him and enjoy Him forever!
3. What else did God make?
  - a. God made everything.
4. What does God's law require?
  - a. That we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves.
5. Can anyone obey the law of God perfectly?
  - a. No one can obey God's law perfectly.
6. What is sin?
  - a. Sin is rejecting God by disobeying his law and commands.
7. Are you a sinner?
  - a. Yes.
8. What do we deserve because of our sin?
  - a. The punishment of hell.
9. What is hell?
  - a. Eternal (forever) punishment for our sin.
10. Who is Jesus?
  - a. The son of God the Father.
11. What did Jesus do?
  - a. He lived a perfect life, he died on the cross for our sins, and he rose from the grave to give us eternal life with God.
12. How can Jesus save you?
  - a. By believing he died in my place and then rose from the grave to give me eternal life in heaven.
13. Can you do enough good works (things) to get into heaven?
  - a. No, it is by grace we are saved through faith.
14. What is baptism?
  - a. Baptism is an outward sign of washing with water of the inward change that God has done in my heart.
15. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
  - a. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin and helps us obey God.

- **Examine their heart.** Over the next six months, you need to examine their heart to see evidence of true Christian faith. Here are some questions for you as the parent to consider so that you can see the type of heart that is being changed by Jesus:

- Does your child believe they need a Savior?

When your child wants to become a Christian or is interested in baptism, ask him why. See if she feels conviction for her sin. You want to see whether they feel the weight of their sin against God.

- Do you see repentance?

As you know, your child is a sinner. You should not be looking for perfection and sinlessness. You should be looking for repentance, that they are turning from their sin on a regular basis to obey the Lord.

- Do you see signs of new life?

Are they convicted of sin? Do they love God? Do they love others? Do they display spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)?

- What are the motives of your child for being baptized or taking communion?

There may be external pressures leading to their decision to get baptized or participate in the Lord's Supper. They may see their friends getting baptized and feel like they are missing out. They may want to take communion because they are missing out or because big kids are doing it. It is your job as a parent to not let them cave to external pressures, but to help them make a decision that is rooted in true faith.

- Does your child obey their parents?

Again, your child is a sinner, so you are not looking for perfect obedience. However, if children exhibit a pattern of consistent disobedience with their earthly parents, then they may not have the desire to obey their heavenly Father. Consistent rebellion is a red flag that your child may not believe the gospel.

- Do you see a growing desire to join you in word and prayer?

If they cannot read, do you see a growing desire to listen to the Bible story? Do they want to read and learn about God? When you lead prayers, do they want to join you with their own prayers as they talk to God? Are they just copying your prayers or are they starting to talk to God in their own words?

- **Lead your child in the disciplines of word and prayer.** If you are not already doing this, you need to start. You are the primary discipler of your child, and God has designed you to have the most impact on your child's faith. Use our Family Discipleship Moments guide to get started and/or reach out to a pastor for help.

## Resources

- [Family Discipleship Moments](#)
- [Roadmap to Baptism Timeline](#)