

**Crossroads
Church**

2011.1

**Preparing
for
Baptism**

Part 1

Who Is Jesus?

John 1:18, "No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

Jesus is _____

John 1:29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus is _____

What is Sin?

Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Sin is _____

James 4:17, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

Sin is _____

Who has Sinned?

Romans 3:23, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Who has sinned? _____

Romans 3:10-12, "As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Who has sinned? _____

What Is The Consequence of Sin?

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

The consequence of sin is _____

Why Did Jesus Come into Our World?

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Jesus Came into the world _____

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Jesus Came into the world _____

What Are Some Ways That We Sin?

How Can I Become a Christ-follower?

Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

How Can I Become a Christ-follower? _____

Romans 10:13, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How Can I Become a Christ-follower? _____

John 1:12, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

How Can I Become a Christ-follower? _____

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

How Can I Become a Christ-follower? _____

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Revelation 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

How Can I Become a Christ-follower? _____

Part 2

What 4 things did Christ Command in Matthew 28:18-20?

"Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Who Was Baptized?

Acts 2:38, "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Who did Peter say could be Baptized? _____

Acts 8:36-38, "As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

Who was Baptized? _____

Acts 18:8, "Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized."

Who was Baptized? _____

(...was everyone in the family automatically baptized ...or was there an advance requirement?)

Acts:16:29-34, "The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family."

Who was Baptized? _____

What did each of these people need to do before being baptized?

What is an ordinance?

Webster's Dictionary. [LL. Order] 1. a direction or command of an authoritative nature. 2. that which is held to be the decree of a deity. 3. an established or prescribed usage esp. a religious rite.

"We believe that an ordinance is an outward ceremony symbolic of a spiritual truth or experience which was instituted by Christ for perpetual use by the Church."

1. **An ordinance is an** _____
2. **It is** _____ **of a spiritual truth or experience.**
3. **It was** _____ **by Jesus.**

We believe there are two ordinances. They are:

Baptism and The Lord's Supper

Who may be baptized? _____

Does baptism save a person? _____

Why do you want to be baptized?

Part 3

What does the Bible teach about the Lord's Supper?

Matthew 26:26-29, "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-29, "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."

- A. The bread represents (is likened unto) Jesus' _____
- B. What do we remember when we eat the bread? _____
- C. The juice represents (is likened unto) Jesus' _____
- D. What do we remember when we drink the juice? _____
- E. What should we do before we participate in the Lord's Supper? _____

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Matthew 5:21-24 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

- F. Who may participate in the Lord's Supper? _____

When we participate in the Lord's Supper we are: (circle all that apply)

- a. eating the body and blood of Jesus Christ
- b. remembering the suffering and love of Jesus Christ.
- c. to do so only if we are appropriately prepared.
- d. having our sins forgiven through our participation
- e. celebrating that our sins have already been forgiven.
- f. actively remembering that Jesus died for our sins.

Part 4

Learning To Walk With The Lord:

John 15:1-17

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other."

- 1. Who Is The True Vine? _____
- 2. Who is the branch? _____
- 3. What Does Jesus Want Us To Produce? _____
- 4. What can you do spiritually apart from Jesus? _____
- 5. How can you remain in Jesus' love? _____
- 6. What does Jesus want us to experience each day? _____
- 7. How Can we be Jesus' Friend? _____
- 8. How are we to treat one another? _____

Part 5 "Your Testimony" (option a)

"Testimony" literally means:

"A proof, evidence or witness of an action, condition, or state of being."

Sharing Your Story About Becoming A Christ Follower:

Please write down your story. Tell us how you became a Christ follower. If you don't have any idea how to do this, here is an outline to follow. If you use your own outline please be sure to cover each of these points, so that other people will be encourage to become Christ-followers too!

Elaborate a bit, or for the minimum, please write out two sentence completions to each of these main points. Then just put them together, and you will have your story.

1. **I felt a need for having my sins forgiven and becoming a Christ-follower . . . [how/why]**
2. **[What/who] caused me to think about Jesus and my need for a forgiver and leader . . . (how)**
3. **I know that when Jesus died on the Cross, He . . . (did what for me)**
4. **[When/how] did I ask Jesus to become my Forgiver/Leader and Savior?**
5. **If someone were to ask me, "How do I know that I'm a Christ-follower?" I would tell them . . .**
6. **At present and in the future I want Jesus to accomplish [what things] in my life. . .**
7. **A Bible verse that encourages me as I live for Christ is... and this is how it helps me...**

Do not skip the Scripture part of your testimony!

After your story is complete, you can read it or tell it to the church family prior to your baptism. God will use your story to touch people's hearts in a wonderful and miraculous way!!

Part 5 "Your Testimony" (option b)

"Testimony" literally means:

"A proof, evidence or witness of an action, condition, or state of being."

Sharing About Becoming a Christ Follower utilizing 3 Images

- As you are thinking about baptism, here is an explanation of what we're asking you to present that day...
- Choose three images...
 - 1) **An image representing your life before you came to Christ...**
 - 2) **An image representing how you turned your life over to Christ and share a verse from the Bible that helps you to understand what that means...**
 - 3) **An image representing what you desire for God to do with your life.**
 - These may be photos, paintings, poems, word pictures, pottery, stories, PowerPoint slides... actually anything creative!
- As part of your story read a Bible verse that encourages you as you live for Christ and explain how this verse helps you. Do not skip the Scripture part of your testimony!
- You may do this entirely on your own or solicit the help of anyone you wish provided that the images have their origin in your heart and your experience. The other people might be helpful in translating your internal image into an actual image that we can show to others. If the image is yours, it will communicate very clearly to others.

Instructions For The Day Of Your Baptism

Stuff you need to know and what to expect the day you're baptized:

- Begin the service in the clothes you will be baptized in.
- You may wear shorts or long pants. We suggest that you wear a t shirt or button up shirt, but be sure it is not white since white becomes see through when it gets wet.
- We advise women to wear their swimsuits under their clothes.
- Wear sandals or flip flops
- Be sure to bring a change of clothes, which you will put in the bathroom where you will be changing.
- Bring two large towels. One to cover and dry off with immediately as you come out of the water and one to leave in the bathroom with your clothes
- Bring a gym bag or plastic bag to carry your wet clothes home in.
- Bring a comb or brush for your hair.
- You will share your testimony one after another as a group and then we will baptize you one after another.
- Parents may participate in their child's baptism
- Small groups will stand up front with their group members during their baptism and small group leaders will participate in the immersion.

What If I Was Baptized As A Baby?

We are very glad that your parents chose to raise you in a manner that emphasizes the importance of God and spiritual things. This means that they recognize the importance of honoring God with our lives.

We too believe that God should be honored in all that we do in life. That is why we base our lives and our practices on the teachings of God's Word. The Bible is our source of authority in all that we teach and practice. As we read what the Bible teaches about baptism, the pattern is always "Believe and be baptized."

If you were baptized as a baby, you obviously were not able to believe or express faith in God on your own. Your parents were expressing their desire that you live your life in the knowledge, appreciation and love of God. They wanted you to share their belief that God loves you and takes care of you.

Baptism, in the Bible, is a sign or a symbol that a person already believes in Jesus Christ as their Leader, Forgiver, Savior, and Lord. It is a means of identifying oneself as a Christ follower and of saying that your life is committed to Jesus Christ. Baptism is also the public means of identifying with other Christ followers. Jesus Himself commanded that we should be baptized for these reasons. Of course, there is also the matter of simple obedience to Jesus, since He told (commanded) us to do it.

Your choice to be baptized as a Christ follower doesn't change/alter/ or take away anything from your infant baptism. This is a separate event in your life. This is actually the next step in the natural progression of you becoming responsible for and "owning" your personal faith in Jesus Christ. Your parents would want your faith journey to continue down the path where you choose to have a close personal faith in Jesus Christ. And now here you are!

Invite your family to join you as you choose to embrace the values of the Bible and identify with a group of Christ followers who will help you to continue down that often-times difficult path of honoring God with your life.