



# baptism 101

ADULT  
EDITION

*<sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)

# baptism 101

## [the baptism journey at Cedar Hills]

At Cedar Hills, baptism is open to every person who has placed his or her trust in Jesus Christ.

In order to *elevate* Jesus and to invite the entire church family to *celebrate* the baptism experience, we've designed an intentional path leading to baptism.

Baptism is an incredible picture of what it looks like to have full life in Jesus Christ, and we're thrilled that you're taking this step!

Here's what the journey looks like . . .

- ▶▶ **Attend baptism 101.**
- ▶▶ **Complete the “my story” outline.**
- ▶▶ **Invite family/friends to your baptism.**
- ▶▶ **Be baptized!**

That's it! Now, let the journey begin...

# all about baptism

## [frequently asked questions about baptism]

The ancient Christian tradition of baptism symbolizes a person's transformation from life apart from God to life in Jesus Christ.

At Cedar Hills, baptism is an opportunity to identify yourself publicly as a Christ-follower and share how you came to trust in Jesus. Baptism is an important step for every Christ-follower!

### ***what's baptism all about?***

Baptism illustrates Christ's death and resurrection and your decision to model your life after his life. Going down in the water symbolizes the death of your old life without Christ; coming up symbolizes your new life with Christ at the center.

### ***does baptism make me a Christ-follower?***

Nope. Responding to Christ's offer of forgiveness and new life in him is what makes you a Christ-follower. Baptism is an outward symbol of the commitment you've already made to follow Christ.

### ***am I ready to be baptized?***

If you've placed your trust in Jesus Christ, then you're ready to be baptized. Baptism is an important and natural next step in the spiritual journey of every person who has responded to God's forgiveness and received new life through Jesus Christ.

### ***what if I was already baptized as a child?***

Many people were baptized as children. We see adult baptism as an affirmation of your infant baptism. We encourage you to be baptized as an adult, because now it's *your* decision to follow Christ.

***can children be baptized?***

We encourage young children to wait to be baptized until they understand the Christ-following life & the significance of baptism. The older a child is, the more meaningful baptism will be.

***can my family be baptized all at once?***

Absolutely! If each family member understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has chosen to follow Christ, we encourage families to be baptized together.

***can I have other people up front with me when I get baptized?***

Absolutely! No one comes to faith in Christ in a vacuum. Start thinking about those who have played a significant part in your spiritual journey (family, friends, small group members), and then invite them to join you for your baptism day. Any (or all) of those people can join you up front for your baptism.

***when do baptisms happen?***

We celebrate baptisms several times a year. We have baptisms in a portable hot-tub-sized pool at the warehouse during weekend gatherings. In the summer, we have a baptism day at City Beach. This year's Beach Baptism Picnic is at the Sandpoint City Beach pavilion at noon on [July 31, 2016](#).

***what will I have to say on my baptism day?***

Not a thing!

***what should I wear on my baptism day?***

Dark colors are best. Men, wear a t-shirt and shorts. Women, wear a t-shirt and shorts with a swimsuit underneath. Everyone, bring a towel!

# my story

## [why your story is important, and how to share it]

### **why**

While the decision to follow Jesus is a personal one, it was never intended to be private. Baptism isn't just for the person being baptized—it's for the whole church!

As you think through your story, it will give you a confident platform to tell others about what Jesus has done in your life. Who knows—God might use your story to help someone else become a Christ-follower!

### **how**

Your story is the answer to the question, "How did you come to faith in Jesus Christ?" It's that simple! There's a simple outline in this booklet for you to use in preparing to tell your story. With some practice, you'll soon be able to tell your story in 60-90 seconds without any breaks.

# my story

**[how I came to faith in Jesus Christ]**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Before I placed my trust in Christ, the focus of my life was...**

**2) I placed my trust in Jesus Christ when...**

**3) Now that I have new life in Christ, here's what's different...**

# my story

## [story starters]

### **Before I placed my trust in Christ, the focus of my life was...**

- ▶▶ Before you were a Christ-follower, what was at the center of your life?
- ▶▶ What was the overall direction of your life before you met Jesus Christ?
- ▶▶ What did you think about God before you began to follow Jesus Christ?

### **I placed my trust in Jesus Christ when...**

- ▶▶ What were the circumstances that led you to invite Christ to be the leader of your life?
- ▶▶ When did you place your trust in Jesus Christ? (be as specific as possible—place, season, date, time)
- ▶▶ How did you experience Christ's gift of forgiveness and new life?

### **Now that I have new life in Christ, here's what's different...**

- ▶▶ What spiritual disciplines (journaling, Bible reading, prayer, small groups, service) are helping you grow with God?
- ▶▶ What's one way you see God working in your life today?



# my story

[sample]

- 1) *Before I placed my trust in Christ, the focus of my life was me & my success. All the way through high school, I worked really hard to succeed at everything I did—that was my number one focus. People might not have known it about me, but because of this focus I was proud, and, to be honest, pretty selfish. I had grown up in a church-going family and I knew about Jesus, but for me Jesus was a Sunday idea instead of a 24/7 person who I knew, listened to, and wanted to honor.*
- 2) *I placed my trust in Jesus Christ in November of 1990, when I was a senior in high school. My youth leader sat me down for nachos at Connie's Café and said: "When are you going to quit thinking about Jesus and start following him?" That question hit me pretty hard, and I realized that while I knew about Jesus in my head, I wasn't following him with my heart. I hadn't made him the leader of my life. Right then and there, I prayed to Jesus and accepted his gift of forgiveness and new life. There weren't any fireworks, but I knew that my life would never be the same.*
- 3) *Now that I have new life in Jesus Christ, I know that I'm a child of God. Jesus isn't an idea to me—he's my hope, my forgiver, my life. I still lose focus from time to time, but Bible reading, journaling & being a part of a small group help me stay on track. God is continuing his work in me, and I see that he's making me more humble & giving me opportunities to serve others. God loves me; my focus is to love and serve him with my life.*

# now what

## [taking your next step]

Thanks for taking the step to be a part of Baptism 101.

### **Ready to dive in?**

Just fill out the signup card in this packet or email  
[info@cedarhillschurch.com](mailto:info@cedarhillschurch.com).

### **Need more info?**

For more information, email [info@cedarhillschurch.com](mailto:info@cedarhillschurch.com) or call 208-265-8500.

### **Someday, but not today?**

You may decide that after learning more about baptism, you're not ready for this step. If that's the case, here's your next step: keep growing on your spiritual journey! When you're ready to move forward, we'll be glad to walk the journey toward baptism with you.

# notes

**[thoughts, insights, questions]**

[www.cedarhillchurch.com](http://www.cedarhillchurch.com)

208.265.8500