

## We are so excited that you are considering baptism for your child!

Every child can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and in Heartland Kids we encourage them to make a decision to follow Him. Our children are encouraged to not just learn about Jesus, but learn from Him by walking with Him every day.

We advise parents to wait until their child is asking to be water baptized. This is usually a good indication that they are ready to be baptized and that it will be a spiritual milestone in their life. While younger children under the age of seven can have a relationship with Jesus, they will not necessarily remember or understand the significance of the event, so we encourage parents to wait for baptism until they are a little older. As you discern if your child is ready to be water baptized, here are some questions to ask your child. The following answers show that your child understands.

### → When did you decide to follow Jesus and become His forever friend?

Your child should have a specific memory of when he or she understood what Jesus did, and that he or she needs Jesus in their life. It may have been at church, at home, or even sometime when they were alone.

### → What does it mean to be water baptized?

It means I've accepted Jesus into my heart and I want to show the world that I'm following Christ .

### → Why do you want to be water baptized?

Jesus was baptized and he tells us to be baptized just like him. I'm a follower of Jesus and I want to show others I have asked Him into my heart.



## A Decision of Faith

*Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say what you believe. And so you are saved.*  
**Romans 10:9-10 NIRV**

### When you are baptized in water, it means you have made a decision of faith to do what?

Water Baptism does not save you. It has no purpose or meaning until after a person has decided to follow Jesus and invited Jesus into their heart and life. When you asked Jesus to be in your heart, there was a death, a burial and a resurrection (that means raising back to life) that happened in your spirit when you asked Jesus to live in your heart (1 Corinthians 12:13). But water baptism is a very important step in your new walk with Jesus. When you decided to follow Jesus, you made a decision of faith to receive Him into your heart. When you are baptized in water, you are making a decision of faith to follow Him all the days of your life. You are choosing to let Jesus and your new, born-again spirit be in charge of your life. Your water baptism will always be a reminder of your decision to follow the Lord.

## An Outward Picture

*When you were baptized, you were buried together with him. You were raised to life together with him by believing in God's power. God raised Jesus from the dead.* **Colossians 2:12 NIRV**

### What is water baptism a picture of?

Water baptism is just an outward picture of what Jesus has done for you on the inside. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and then was raised from the dead! That's why you go all the way under the water when you are baptized. You are showing people that your old spirit and all your past sins (the bad things you did) are buried with Jesus. When you come up out of the water, you are saying that Jesus has given you new life. Everyone sees the picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart.

### You Child May Not Be Ready

If you don't feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, it's totally appropriate to wait. During this time, let your child observe water baptism and talk to them about what it means. We'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with your child and spur them on in their personal relationship with Jesus.

### Your Child is Ready

If you feel your child understands what it means to be water baptized, then we'd love for you to read through the water baptism devotional with them. To register for baptisms, go to [heartlandchurch.com/baptism](http://heartlandchurch.com/baptism).

## Water Baptism Devotional

### Obedying Jesus' Commandment

*So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.*  
Matthew 28:19-20 NIRV

### → What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?

Being baptized in water is one of the first steps you take in following Jesus. A follower of Jesus does not just learn about Him, but follows Jesus and does the things He did. The number one reason you should get baptized in water is because Jesus did and because it is a picture of the change that has taken place inside your heart,

When you decided to follow Jesus, you were brought into God's kingdom under Jesus' control. That means you have decided to do what Jesus says and follow His example. Jesus was water baptized, so we should be too. Take time right now to read about Jesus' baptism in your Bible in Matthew 3:13-17.

## Are You or Your Child Ready to be Baptized?

Baptisms are held the first Sunday of each month.

To register for baptisms, go to [heartlandchurch.com/baptism](http://heartlandchurch.com/baptism) or scan the QR Code below.



## Have Questions?

Our Heartland Kids & Students Team would love to partner with you to guide your children through these decisions of faith. To contact us, email [familyministries@heartlandchurch.com](mailto:familyministries@heartlandchurch.com) or scan the QR Code below.



[heartlandchurch.com](http://heartlandchurch.com)

