

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR BAPTISM?

This guide has been created to help parents decide when their child is ready for baptism. This short guide is not a replacement for bible study and teaching.

FIVE QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU DECIDE IF YOUR CHILD IS READY TO BE BAPTIZED:

1. DOES MY CHILD UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL?

The first test of a profession of faith is knowledge ([Romans 10:14](#)). If your child is saved, (recognizing Jesus as Lord and Savior and following Him), then they should know the basics of the gospel. If they cannot explain what Jesus did for them, why he did it, and how, they have not yet accepted Jesus as Lord of their life. While it would be unreasonable to expect an in-depth and detailed explanation of the gospel, we should expect them to have a basic understanding before baptism.

2. DOES MY CHILD CLAIM JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR?

Children who are saved will claim to follow Jesus. They will say things like, "Jesus is my savior; He saved me, I asked him to come into my heart, or I want to be like Jesus." A kid who loves Jesus will identify with Him before Baptism.

3. HAS THEIR LIFE CHANGED?

We read in [2 Corinthians 5](#) that people become new creations at conversion. Kids are no different. The same Holy Spirit who redeems adults redeems kids. As with adults, a saved child will be on the path of righteousness. This doesn't mean they're perfect, but you should see a gradual change in the right direction. They may be quicker to apologize, less hateful towards siblings, or have a *desire* to do the right thing even if they fail to follow through every time. Even as adults, our reaction to a bad driver on the highway can quickly remind us that subduing our flesh is an ongoing process.

4. WHY DOES MY CHILD WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

There are many reasons a child might want to be baptized. Perhaps they are eager to follow Christ's command to be baptized, and they are looking forward to making a public confession of their faith. Maybe they want to be like their friends, or they think baptism saves, it looks like fun or they like the attention. Before you allow your child to be baptized, make sure they understand the purpose of baptism.

5. IS YOUR CHILD PERSISTENT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED?

When most children want something, they will not let you forget. They are very persistent. If your child is persistent about being baptized, that can be a good sign that they really want it. If, however, the only time they bring it up is at baptism service, their motives *might* be wrong.

Hopefully these five questions will help you in your decision. If you are still unsure and would like to speak to someone, we would encourage you to discuss it with our kid's pastors. You can email Shaye at shaye.rames@generationsardmore.com.