

# how to talk to your elementary-age about baptism



Are they going to listen? Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much? When they go off on their own, are they going to remain faithful? Parenting young Christians feels scary, but it doesn't have to be. We hope this guide helps you be confident.

## the parent's role in this stage: *water regularly*

Emphasize engaging in your child's interests to demonstrate trusting in God's character. Water the seeds and as they sprout up, cultivate community and nurture their sense of discovery, especially about baptism, to prepare your child for what comes next.

## wait, is it too early?

"Is my child old enough to get baptized?" There is no set age. Every child matures differently. Factors like life experiences, or older siblings and cousins, all play a role. Children at this age might be too young to fully understand baptism, and that's okay. But **don't extinguish their excitement or curiosity.**

The Elementary years, from Kindergarten to fifth grade, are prime for sparking interest in faith and laying the groundwork for future decisions. The closer they get to Middle School, the more they'll surprise you with what they want to know.

## their motivation

You know your child better than anyone, but in this stage, children are **motivated by rising to the challenge.** And they want **to do everything together**, with either you or their friends.

This stage is all about **having fun.** As they grow up around the Church, help them see have positive experiences in worship, class, or events with their friends. If they **feel comfortable with you around Church**, they'll feel comfortable talking to you about it. Your role is to cultivate and nurture excitement.

**Model faith in Jesus** by inviting them to join you in Bible study, or sing with you in worship. Or **give them something to read** on their own.

Match their motivations by giving them more to do. Bring them along for the ride.

## study with them

If your child seems ready to ask deeper questions, walk through these Scriptures with them.

**sin separates us from God.**  
Isa 59:1-4 & Rom 5:23

**sin hurts us and others.**  
Rom 1:28-32 & Gen 4:6-10

**God wants to be with us.**  
Lam 3:19-27 & 2 Cor 5:17-21

**how do we respond? believe, confess, repent, & be baptized.**  
Acts 2:37-40

**what's next? God is with us.**  
2 Pet 1:3-11 & Rom 8:31-39

If it seems like they've got this down, prompt them:

**what kinds of things can you do to follow God everyday?**

## making conversation

They are probably too young to make the baptism decision, but pay attention to what kind of questions they are asking. If they are more *individual* rather than *abstract*, they are getting close to being able to make that response on their own.

**Abstract** being: people do bad things and need to know Jesus.

**Individual** being: am I a bad person because I told a lie?

Help them have fun learning with casual conversation. Try things like...

**When they attend a Bible class:** Did those people obey God? How?

**When your student shares that someone did something wrong:** How did that hurt other people?

**When someone gets baptized:** Why do you think baptism is important?

**When your church is engaged in a service activity:** Is there something we could do to get involved?

They might not know the answer, nor remember the conversations. **They will, however, remember they can talk to you** about their faith.

## coaching tips

**Your child thrives when doing things together.** Pick a study you can do with them, or find ways to involve their friends.

**Your child wants to be celebrated and noticed.** When they ask a questions, it's okay if you don't have the answer. At least acknowledge how cool is it that they want to know. Make plans to study later.

**Your child is ready to notice right and wrong.** Either in the Bible, or in their life, ask them where they see sin, and what God desires instead.

this all might sound like a lot, but I can assure you... *God's got this.*