

how to talk to your infant to toddler 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: *plant the seeds*

Emphasize embracing your child's physical needs to plant the seeds of your child knowing God's love. Especially in these early years, forming familiarity with Church, faith patterns, and even baptism prepare your child for what comes next.

it's never too early.

Your child is too young to make a decision to get baptized, but it's not too early to start introducing them to Biblical ideas. Whether it's pointing out when others get baptized or engaging them in Bible stories from their Sunday School classes, you can **spark their interest in responding to God**.

It's not something they'll do anytime soon, but you set them up to succeed when you plant seeds by giving them language and a foundation to grow upon as they get older.

their motivation

At this age, your child is asking, "why," with their words, their hands, and sometimes even their teeth. "Why did my parents get upset when I made a mess?" "Why can't I go up the stairs by myself yet?" "Why are there so many rules?"

When you answer consistently and clearly, they begin to recognize the world around them through those models. They're too young to understand sin, but by being clear about what is **good** and **not good**, they learn that **good choices should be repeated**, and when they make a bad decision, their parent is there to help **make it right**.

Model **love** and **forgiveness** by showing them they can do things on their own, but you're there to help when it doesn't go right.

Match their motivations by supporting their confidence.

making conversation

Your child is learning life patterns they will replicate until they are old enough to make their own decisions. The things they become familiar with now, like worship, prayer, and Bible stories, will shape their future. Make going to worship services a fun family encounter. Use words or ideas from their Bible classes to help them make sense of the world.

Try things like...

When they hear a Bible story: God wants us to follow Him.

When your child makes a mess: That's okay, your parents can help.

When someone at Church gets baptized: Look, someone is following God.

When your church is engaged in a service activity: We get to show God's love to other people.

When they get worried or sad: We can pray to God about that.

study with them

Your child might be too young to read Scripture, but they can listen and understand Biblical ideas. Introduce them to concepts like:

Adam and Eve Disobeyed.
Genesis 3

Jonah Didn't Listen to God.
Jonah 1-4

God Always Welcomes Us Back.
Luke 15, Prodigal Son

God Wants to Be with Us.
Psalm 23

If it seems like they're understanding God, prompt them:

what do you want to pray to God about today?

It might not seem like they are listening, but **they are**. You are helping them **make sense of the world** around them.

coaching tips

Your child thinks like an artist. Use crafts, pictures, or story books to help your child visualize what they hear in the Bible.

Your child wants to be independent. As they're able, help them find the answer by asking them, "That's a good question, what do you think?"

Your child needs consistency. Build and demonstrate the habits that you want them to have by praying together or reading the Bible together.

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