

DISCIPLES WHOLEHEARTEDLY  
LOVING, LIVING AND REVEALING JESUS

# Baptism



GEORGES RIVER  
LIFE CHURCH



# WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTISED?

## To follow the example that Jesus set

**MARK 1:9** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

## Because Christ commanded it

**MATT 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## It demonstrates that I really am a follower of Jesus

**ACTS 18:8** "...and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized".

**1 JOHN 2:3** We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

# WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

## It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection

**1 COR. 15:3-4** "...Christ died for our sins...he was buried, that he was raised on the third day"

**COL 2:12** "...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead".

## It illustrates my new life as a Christian

**2 COR 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

**ROM 6:4** 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"

**Baptism doesn't make you a believer but it shows that you already believe. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the inward commitment.**

**EPH. 2:8-9** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast"

# WHY BE BAPTISED BY IMMERSION?

## Because Jesus was baptised that way

**MATT 3:16** “As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him”

## Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion

**ACTS 8:38-39** “...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him”.

The word ‘baptise’ from the Greek word baptismo which means to immerse with water.

Immersion best symbolizes burial and resurrection and has been used throughout the centuries to identify with Jesus.

“I would have those who are baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies” Martin Luther

“The word “baptise” signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church” John Calvin

“Buried with Him alludes to baptising by immersion according to the custom of the first church” John Wesley

# WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?

## Every person who has placed their faith in Christ

**ACTS 2:41** “Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day”.

**ACTS 8:13** “Simon himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw”.

**ACTS 8:12** “But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women”

## Those who have repented of their sin

**ACTS 2:38** “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”.

## Those who are on a journey to spiritual maturity

**GAL 3:27** “For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ”.

Baptism can be a significant step of our spiritual journey. It displays commitment and willingness towards spiritual maturity. By being baptised we are stating that we are prepared to clothe every part of our life with Christ, with Christ's attitudes and character. This is symbolic of this.

Those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour and who have made a decision to follow Him in obedience for the rest of their lives are in a position to be baptised.

The Bible teaches that Baptism is one act that occurs in a person's life. Baptism is not something that should be unnecessarily repeated. For this reason we believe that individuals should wait until a time when their baptism will be significant and long remembered.

**EPH. 4:5** “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism”

## MY CHILD/TEEN WANTS TO BE BAPTISED

At Georges River Life Church, we believe God is for children and he is super keen to begin His forever friendship with them now, not just when they are adults. While it can look a little different when we are kids, children have the capacity to respond to Jesus and make that decision to be His forever friend as well and therefore we believe children can participate in believer's baptism.

Baptism is a big deal though – while it doesn't make us a Christian, it is a one-time grand announcement of your faith in Jesus, so we understand (just like adults), it's important to be wise with this decision. As a parent, you need discernment if your child's desire for baptism is paired with a good understanding of what it means. Here's the thing: there is no 'right' age or action to indicate your child is ready. It's hard to know exactly when anyone is ready because baptism is an outward expression of an inward choice to follow Jesus.

## Here are some things we suggest that might help you in this process:

- **Show and explain to your child what it means to be baptised even before they have showed an interest**  
Talk about when and why you got baptised, what it means, and make it a priority to bring them to the All in Services (we try to pair them up with the baptism days so your children can hear the testimonies) and to go to the park to see people getting baptised so they are exposed to it.
- **Let your child initiate the conversation about their own baptism**  
If they grow up hearing about and seeing baptisms, when they initiate the conversation about their own baptism they are more likely to have a good understanding of it.
- **If your child comes to you and asks you about baptism, talk about what baptism announces to people and why we do it (you can use the verses in this outline).**  
If they can express a personal understanding of baptism and you have been able to see that they have made a personal commitment to Jesus- then great! If not, you can use this opportunity to talk more about Jesus, His love, and what it means to be His disciple and friend.
- **Chat to your child's POD leader (River Kids and/or youth) so we can partner in this discussion with you and your child.**  
Your child's leader can help discern with you if your child is ready and have fruitful conversations with them!

## WHAT NOW?

Complete the Baptism Application Form in this booklet and give it to one of the Pastors.

We will contact you to discuss your Baptism and discuss any questions you have as well as:

- a. Time and place of your Baptism
- b. What will happen on the day
- c. Sharing your testimony about what brought you to the point of Baptism

**For more information; call the office on 02 9153 6300 or email us [info@grlc.org.au](mailto:info@grlc.org.au)**

# BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Birth:  
(children only) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please answer the following:

1. Why do you want to get Baptised?

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2. Have you ever been baptised by immersion before? Yes / No

3. If 'Yes' in which church? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you currently attend Georges River Life Church? Yes / No

a. If 'Yes', how often? Regularly / Occasionally

b. If 'No', do you attend another church on a regular basis? Yes / No

c. If 'Yes' in which church? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you a member of a Life Group / PoD? Yes / No

6. If yes, who is your Life Group, PoD Leader? \_\_\_\_\_



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