

BAPTISM

PARENT CONVERSATION GUIDE

When your child starts asking you to be baptized, this is generally a good sign that s/he is ready. That said, children younger than seven still may not understand the significance of the event, so use this guide to discern whether your child is ready.

WHAT TO SAY

SALVATION

Your child should know why s/he has decided to follow Jesus and be his friend forever. This choice may have happened at home, at church, or when s/he was alone. Ask your child why s/he wants to follow Jesus and what this means to him or her.

BAPTISM

Your child should understand that baptism is an outward display of his or her choice to follow Jesus. Ask your child why s/he wants to be baptized. Of course these answers will vary, but the main motivation should point back to your child's salvation.

IF... your child isn't ready to be baptized, that's ok! Let him or her observe baptisms and keep talking about what they mean.

NEXT STEPS

GETTING YOUR CHILD READY

If you have determined your child understands what water baptism is all about, the next step is to do the devotional together. These verses will provide a space for you to discuss baptism further with your child. You can also connect with a Substance Church leader to find out when baptisms will be held.

DEVOTIONAL

READ:

Matthew 3:3-17 (NIRV)

ASK:

Why did Jesus get baptized? How did God feel about it?

SAY:

Following Jesus means following his example. If he was baptized, we should be too!

READ:

Romans 6:4 (NIRV)

ASK:

How is it possible to live a "new life" like Christ? Do you have examples?

SAY:

Water baptism is an expression of dying to our old ways of living and coming up new!