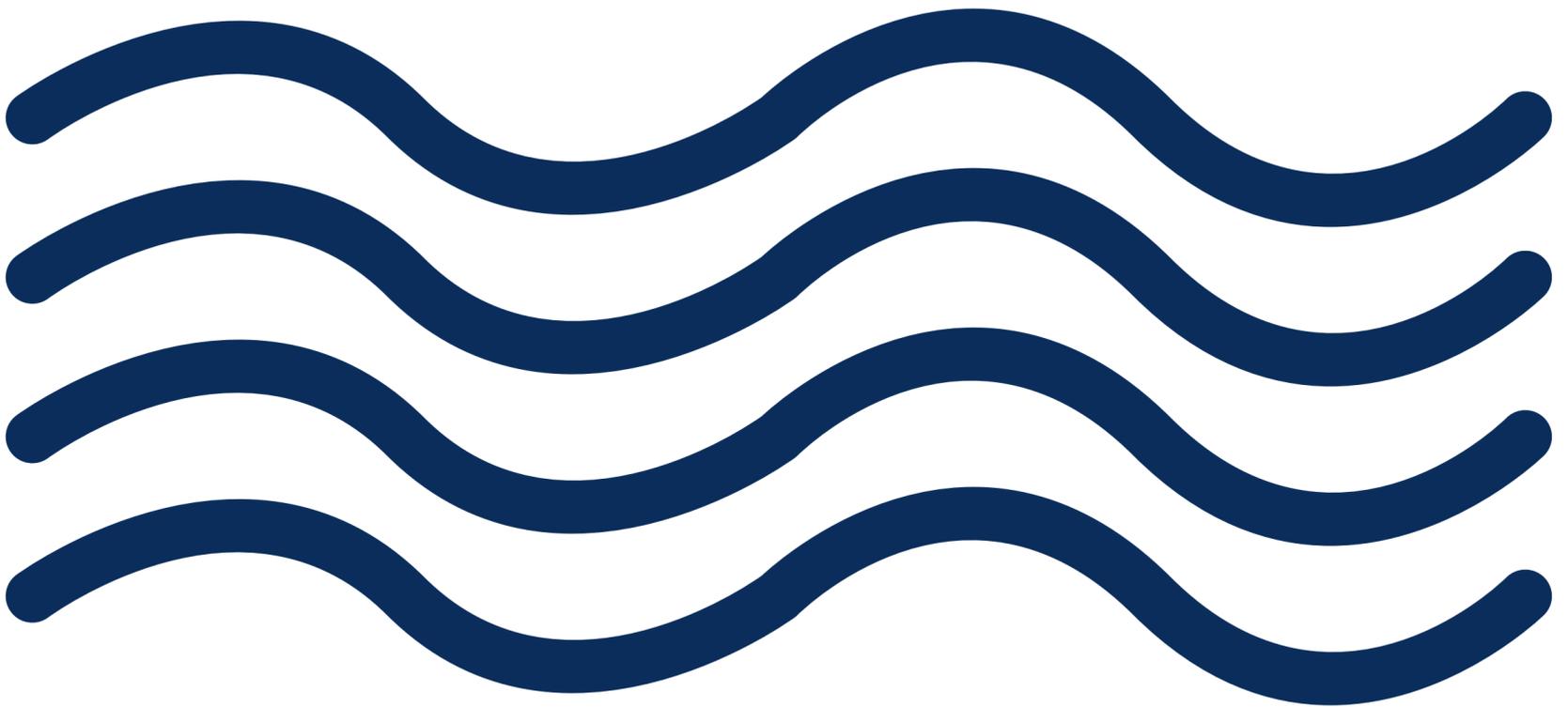


CROSSPOINT BAPTIST CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP
GUIDEBOOK



THE GOSPEL & BAPTISM

You are reading this book for an excellent reason. Either Jesus has already changed your life, or the Spirit is drawing you so that you will say yes to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Think about that for a second...

**God is doing
something in
your life.**

This guide will help you understand the Gospel and then prepare you to show the world that Jesus is worth following! We encourage you to open your Bible as you consider the next steps. Take time to read, reflect and respond to the verses in this guide.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOD.

God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin (1 John 1:5, Rev. 4:11, Rom. 2:5-8).

MAN.

All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature (Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23). From birth, all people are separated from God, hostile to God (Col. 1:21-23) and deserve punishment for their sin. (Eph. 2:1-3).

CHRIST.

Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear the punishment of those who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

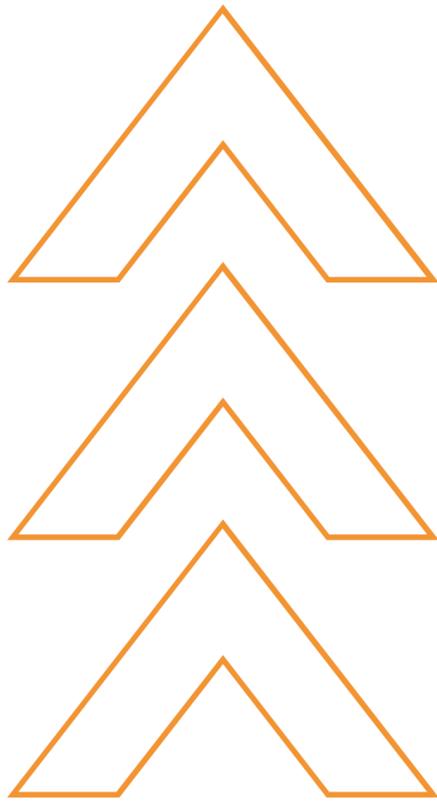
RESPONSE.

God calls everyone everywhere to turn away from their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:9-10).

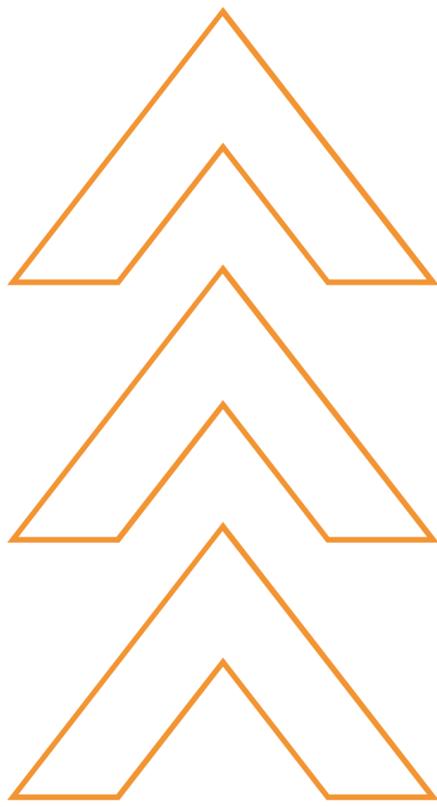
NOW WHAT?

Isn't what Jesus did for us great news? Simply hearing the news is not enough. The Bible says that we must admit/own our sin and stop trusting in ourselves for salvation.

We do not have the power to escape sin on our own. We cannot do enough good things to escape sin. We cannot work hard enough to be free from it. We must ask God to forgive us, turn from our sin, and trust only in Jesus. This is what it means to repent and believe (Mark 1:15).



ARE YOU READY
TO FOLLOW
JESUS
TODAY?



Now that you have heard this good news, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like this:

God, today I recognize it is because of my wrong actions (sin) that I need You.

I believe Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead -- to rescue me from my sin.

Forgive me. I turn from my sin and put my trust in You.

I confess that Jesus is Lord, God, Savior and King of all, and I want to obey and follow Him.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is one of the greatest moments of any person's life. It is the visible picture of an inward spiritual change. Baptism is your megaphone to the church and to the world about the Gospel. So before you get baptized, you need to better understand how Jesus changes your life.

BAPTISM IS A DECLARATION AND SYMBOL

Baptism is a declaration of your faith in Christ and your commitment to follow Him.

Your baptism illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead...

Colossians 2:12

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.
2. TO FOLLOW JESUS' COMMANDS.
3. TO IDENTIFY WITH JESUS' PEOPLE.

SIMPLY, CHRIST-FOLLOWERS WANT TO IMITATE AND FOLLOW JESUS. DID YOU KNOW THAT JESUS HIMSELF WAS BAPTIZED?

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and 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.*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

DO I HAVE TO GET BAPTIZED UNDER WATER?

Jesus was baptized under water, in the Jordan River. Baptism under water models what Jesus did.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. [Matthew 3:16a]

As Jesus was coming up out of the water... [Mark 1:10]

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (under water).

Then both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Phillip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... [Acts 8:38-39]

The word baptize means to dip or immerse.

WHEN SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

The Bible teaches that baptism should follow your decision to become a believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are "good" enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [Acts 8:12]

TALK IT OUT...

In your own words, what is baptism?

Why do you want to get baptized?

How has Jesus changed your life?

How is your life different now?

LIFE AFTER BAPTISM

The Christian faith doesn't stop after baptism. It's just begun! Baptism is the start of your discipleship journey. Here are some ways to follow Jesus after baptism.

1) JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH.

We all need help following Jesus. When we are baptized, we are entering into a local church made up of people God has given to help us follow Jesus. After being baptized, join a local church so that you can learn to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through being discipled. We were never meant to follow Jesus all by ourselves. God has also called us to serve in the local church. Jesus modeled service to his disciples so a healthy disciple of Jesus should find opportunities to serve. (Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Peter 3:18)

2) BE ON MISSION.

Jesus' last words to his disciples were to make disciples. Because someone shared the gospel with you, you came to know and believe in Jesus Christ. Now, Jesus has commanded us to go and spread the gospel. Life after baptism means being on mission by living like Jesus and telling other people about Him! (Matthew 28:18-20)

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