

# Kids Water Baptism

Water Baptism is an outward expression of an inward belief in Jesus as our Savior. It is also our chance to declare Jesus as Lord and Savior in front of family and friends – becoming one of the most significant spiritual milestones in a Christian’s spiritual walk.

## Baptism Class

This is a beautiful opportunity for you to help guide your child through this process of learning and discovery. Our Kids and Families Pastor will facilitate the class. (A Parent and/or a Spiritual Mentor must accompany their child to the Baptism class.)

## FAQ

### What age do you allow children to be baptized?

We generally recommend age 8 or older, however we don’t require any age. Each child must have asked Jesus to be their savior, have requested to be baptized and be able to articulate their faith. The Kids and Families Pastor will ask you, as their parent, to determine your own child’s readiness.

### What kinds of questions should I ask my child to determine if he/she is ready for baptism?

*We recommend that you wait until your child initiates the conversation about baptism. His/her desire to be baptized should always precede baptism.*

1. **Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?** (Children don’t always remember an exact time and date but he/she should be able to describe a time when they chose to follow Jesus and commit their life to Him. Explore this decision with your child. We don’t expect that a child understands everything about salvation but he/she should have a basic understanding of what Christ has done for him/her on the cross).
2. **Why do you want to be baptized?** (Baptism is a command that Jesus gave us before He left the earth. It represents a public declaration of faith to everyone in your sphere of influence. It also means that you must be ready to stand up for who Jesus is and what He did for you. For some it could mean that friends reject you, others may laugh at you, or perhaps even the loss of friends or status. Is your child prepared for that? Is he/she ready to make that kind of declaration of faith?)
3. **Are you ready to speak about your faith publicly?** (Being able to tell others about your faith is an important component of being a believer. Children will have the opportunity to publicly declare

their faith to the witnesses that are at the service that day. Is he/she ready to make a public statement of faith? Can he/she articulate what they believe about Jesus and what He has done for him/her?)

## Why is the class required for my child to be baptized?

One of our values, here at NMC, is to insure that parents have an opportunity to disciple and guide their children in their spiritual walk. We hold a class to insure that all the children are prepared for baptism, but also to give parents a chance (through guidance in the class) to walk their children through scripture and discuss salvation, baptism, sharing a testimony and being a witness.

## My Child was baptized as an infant, should they be baptized again?

When we read the Bible, we see baptism occurring after salvation to make a person's faith public (Acts 8:26-38.) If your child was baptized as an infant, but he/she has made their own commitment to Jesus as their Savior, and they are desiring to be baptized, then it is appropriate for them to be baptized again. Baptism should be an experience that your child remembers as a public declaration of his/her faith.

## Can we invite family and friends to the baptism?

Absolutely! Invite anyone you like! A person's baptism is a very special spiritual milestone which should be shared by all those who have and will invest in a child's life. It is also a great opportunity to invite those that do not know Jesus. Allow your child to be a witness to them through their testimony of faith and baptism!

## How do I prepare my child for their baptism day?

After you and your child have attended the Child Baptism Class, then taking time at home to review the materials from the class, continuing the conversation with your child about what a witness for Jesus looks like, and praying for what the Lord has in store for your child's future, is a good way to prepare. Remember to invite all your friends and family to the baptism so that your child can declare his/her faith to them all!

What to wear/bring on the day of:

Wear DARK colored shorts (no long jeans) and shirt. Kids can also wear board shorts and a t-shirt. All clothes should be modest and not see-through when wet.

- Towel

- Flip Flops
- Change of Clothes
- Items needed for fixing hair, etc.

## What can I do to help my child remember their Baptism?

The first and most important way for a child to remember his/her baptism is to be ready for it. If a child is too young or they haven't desired baptism, then it won't be meaningful. (There isn't any reason to rush a child into baptism.) Some other ways to document the occasion include framing a photograph of the baptism, framing their baptism certificate, watching their baptism video, and talk about a plan for spiritual growth – perhaps purchase a Bible, engraved with your child's name, as a remembrance of a special spiritual milestone! We will provide a CD with photos, a DVD of the baptism, and a Baptism Certificate.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email our Kids and Families Pastor, Sharon Noble, at [snoble@newportmesa.org](mailto:snoble@newportmesa.org)