



*A GUIDE TO*  
***WATER***  
***BAPTISM***

***FOR PARENTS***

# ***THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM***

*Water baptism is one of the first steps of obedience for someone who has put their trust in Jesus as Savior, Lord and King. (Matthew 28:19) Water baptism is an outer physical action that represents spiritual new birth on the inside. It represents having your sins washed away, being done with your old life and beginning a new life in Jesus. (Romans 6:3-4; Titus 3:3-6) Water baptism is not necessary to give you salvation and forgiveness of sins. It is a step of obedience that says to everyone, "I am a believer and follower of Jesus!" (Acts 2:41)*

# ***THE PATTERN OF WATER BAPTISM***

*Water baptism is meant to be a church community and family celebration. As one follower of Jesus baptizes another follower of Jesus, it honors and celebrates that person stepping into kingdom fellowship. Stepping into kingdom fellowship means that you are now a member of the family of God and the Body of Christ. You are no longer separated from God (spiritual death). You have been united with God the Father through Jesus the Son (spiritual life).*

*Once someone is ready to be baptized, find a place with water deep enough to immerse someone completely. This could be a baptistry (a special place for baptisms at church), a swimming pool, a river, a lake or the ocean. Baptisms are exciting and beautiful whether they are inside or outside.*

*Church leaders are most often involved in baptizing someone who has experienced new birth. Others who helped lead someone to faith in Jesus—parents, family members and friends—can also take part. It takes a team to lead people to Jesus and to help them grow in following Him. Having a team be a part of water baptism is a beautiful picture of partnership.*

# THE PROCESS OF MINISTERING WATER BAPTISM

The following is a helpful guide in leading someone into water baptism:

**1** Once in the water, take time to ask the person you're baptizing the following questions, all requiring the response, "Yes.":

☞ [Name], have you repented and turned from your sins, believed in Jesus as Savior and King and confessed Him as the crucified and risen Lord? ☞

☞ Are you here today to tell everyone that you have made a commitment to follow Jesus? ☞

☞ Are you going to follow Jesus as a devoted disciple for the rest of your life? ☞

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*After that, say, “[Name], by your profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Buried with Christ” (as you immerse them in the water) “and raised to walk in newness of life” (as you bring them up out of the water).*

*This should be followed with applause, cheering for the person who has been baptized and shouting for joy to God for this miraculous moment. Water baptism is a holy and happy time for everyone.*