



I am excited to hear that you are interested in being baptized! It is cool that you want to tell everyone that you are living your life for Jesus. Before you get baptized we need for you to work through this packet. We hope that an adult will be able to go through this information with you. You will find a series of scriptures that we want you to read, some information about what getting baptized means and a few questions for you to answer.

When you have completed these three things we want to set up a time with you and an adult to talk about it all!

Call us at the office or send me an email.

Pastor Shelly

360-779-5515

shelly.cole@gatewayfellowship.com

Check the boxes below as you complete each part of this packet!

I have read all of the scriptures

I have read the part about baptism

I'm Ready to be Baptized!

Water is used for cleaning things. We baptize in water to show our sins have been washed away. When we are put under the water it is a symbol of our old sinful person being buried. This is why our church baptizes people by fully immersing (dunking) them under the water. When we come out of the water, it shows everyone that we are new person.

*That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.*

— Romans 6:4 MSG

# Baptism

## Water

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Other people should be able to see that we are a “new person.” We can see a good example of this in the butterfly. It starts as a lumpy caterpillar that builds a cocoon and then comes out a graceful butterfly. The change is easy to see.

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

— II Corinthians 5:17 NLT

Water baptism is a statement of your desire to live for God and with His help to live for Him. Taking part in baptism is a time when we stand up for God and show we’re choosing to obey Him. If God is really important to us, we won’t be ashamed to tell others about Him and what He has done for us.

*Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.*

— Matthew 10:32 NLT

Water baptism is vital to those who want to be completely obedient to Jesus Christ. In fact, it is a command of Christ. We desire to be baptized in water because Jesus commanded that we do this. Water baptism is not something we do because friends are doing it or because it looks kind of fun. We are baptized out of love and obedience to Jesus.

*God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.*

— Matthew 28:19-20 MSG

Water baptism identifies you with the Body of Christ (other Christians) if we belong to Jesus, who is the head.

In Jesus’ day, water baptism was a common practice. It always signaled a turning point in a person’s life. It was a sign of a change of heart, cleansing from sin, or turning from one way of life to a new way of living.

John the Baptist baptized many people at the Jordan River. He encouraged people to repent; that is, turn from the wrong things they were doing. Jesus was baptized by John.

- Baptism is a sign or testimony to the world that you have made a decision to accept and live for Jesus. He changes our hearts and lives. Getting baptized is a way to show everybody that this change has happened in your life.

- Baptism does not wash away your sins, only Jesus can do that. We must first repent of our sins (the wrong things we have done) and ask forgiveness before being baptized.

*Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

— Acts 2: 38 NLT

-Baptism does not make you a Christian. Baptism does not save you or guarantee you a home in heaven. Believing and asking Jesus into your life as your Lord and Savior is the only way to heaven.

- Baptism is a sign that you have become a Christian. For the Christian, baptism is an outward sign to others of a heart change within you. Anyone who has not invited Jesus Christ into his life should not be baptized. It serves no purpose if you don’t have a relationship with Him.

- Getting baptized does not mean you have arrived. It is not a magical act which makes you unable to sin. It is a choice to publicly proclaim your faith in Christ. Getting baptized is only the beginning.

Now that you have decided to live your life like Jesus — just HOW do you go about it?

Your body needs good food to grow strong and healthy... your spirit needs a daily serving of good spiritual food to grow strong and healthy, too!

WHERE do you find that good food?

1. Read your Bible.
2. Pray every day. This has two parts: talking to God and letting Him talk to you
3. Attend church. Meet together with other Christians
4. Find your place of ministry in the church. Serve the Lord and share Him with others.

## What to Expect on Your Baptism Day

1. Come to church at least 20 minutes before the service starts.
2. We will be meeting in the choir room. There is a restroom back there for you to change your clothes if needed. Remember to bring a towel!
3. Everyone who is being baptized that morning will line up 5 minutes before the service begins. The person baptizing you will speak with each person as they are standing in line, making sure they know your name.
4. When it is your turn, go down into the water, one at a time.
5. The person baptizing you may ask you a few questions about why you want to be baptized. Remember: Everyone listening is very happy about your decision! It makes them excited about Jesus and what He does.

**Note to Parents:** Have your children practice talking about their special story. Refer them to highlights in their baptism application. Please help them to keep it very brief.

6. After you've shared your brief story, the person baptizing will say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Then you will be quickly dipped in and out of the water. Everybody watching will be celebrating with you!

7. Your mom, dad or someone designated can meet you with a towel as you come out of the water, up the stairs.

**Note:** Please wear something that is modest wet or dry. Dark shirts/pants/shorts are great.



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# What happens next?

# The big day!

5



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Personal Spiritual History — Your “Special Story”

Tell how you started your friendship with Jesus.

When did you ask Jesus into your heart?

Name 2-3 people you respect because of their love for Jesus. How are they like Jesus? Tell about some special things Jesus has done in their lives.

or other things that have helped you learn about Jesus.

In what ways do you show that Jesus is number one in your life?

What things are different about you now that Jesus is your Lord?

**Please print and turn in form or email to**

**[shelly.cole@gatewayfellowship.com](mailto:shelly.cole@gatewayfellowship.com)**

