

BAPTISM GUIDE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURPHY, TEXAS



“WE WERE BURIED THEREFORE
WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH, IN ORDER THAT,
JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER,
WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.
FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH HIM IN A DEATH LIKE HIS,
WE SHALL CERTAINLY BE UNITED WITH HIM IN A RESURRECTION LIKE HIS.”
(ROMANS 6:4-5)

What is the Gospel?

Admitting that I am sinful and in need of God's loving gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.
(Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8; John 3:16)

Believing that Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures.
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Confessing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and repenting of your sin.
(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:28)

Devoting your life to follow Jesus in community to make disciples who make disciples.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Experiencing abundant life in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and ultimately eternal life in heaven with God the Father.
(John 10:10; John 3:16)

Following Jesus in believer's **baptism** is the first of many steps toward a life of obedience after responding to the gospel. (Acts 2:36-41)

What Is Baptism?

“Christian **baptism** is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.” (Baptist Faith and Message 2000)

Jesus' Example Of Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be **baptized** by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be **baptized** by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was **baptized**, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:9-11 “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was **baptized** by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were **baptized**, and when Jesus also had been **baptized** and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Jesus Commands Disciples To Be Baptized

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Baptism Illustrates Repentance And Our Relationship With Jesus

Acts 2:36-41 “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were **baptized**, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Baptism Involves Complete Immersion Under Water

Acts 8:35-39 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being **baptized**?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he **baptized** him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”

Baptism Occurs After Salvation (People often use various terms and phrases to describe salvation. Here are some more common ones, so you get the picture. **Baptism** occurs after one is converted. **Baptism** occurs after one is born again. **Baptism** occurs after one trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior). **Baptism** is not a part of one’s salvation. It occurs after one’s salvation.

Acts 10:47-48 “Can anyone withhold water for **baptizing** these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.”

Acts 16:14-15 “One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was **baptized**, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.”

Acts 16:30-34 “Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was **baptized** at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”

Baptism Pictures Our United Relationship With Jesus

Romans 6:3-5 “Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by **baptism** into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

Baptism Pictures Our New Relationship With Jesus

Colossians 2:11-15 “¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in **baptism**, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

The Apostle Paul Modeled Baptism After Salvation

Acts 9:18 “And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was **baptized**”

Baptism Demonstrates Our Obedience To Jesus

1 John 2:3-6 “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

FBC Murphy Baptism FAQs

ARTICLE V - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (FBC Bylaws)

Section 5. Reception of New Members

A person shall be considered for membership after a proper interview by the Pastor, a Ministerial Staff member or a Deacon to confirm that they meet the requirements of membership as outlined in Article V, Section 1 and shows evidence of a regenerate heart and a genuine affection for the Church and by:

A. Profession of Faith and Baptism - a public profession of faith for the first time in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and subsequent **baptism** by immersion; or

B. Transfer of membership - transfer from another Southern Baptist Church with a letter of membership and record of the previous **baptism** by immersion; or

C. Statement of Faith - transfer from another Christian church upon public profession of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior and acknowledgment of the previous **baptism** by immersion as a believer; or

D. Baptism – a previous member of another Christian church but not **baptized** by immersion and upon profession of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior and **baptism** by immersion in this church.

A person who has been appropriately interviewed and meets the requirements for membership will be received for membership at any regularly scheduled Sunday worship service upon a public acceptance of the principles of faith and practices of the Church and terms of these Bylaws and approval by an affirmative expression of the Church.

PREPARING FOR BAPTISM AT FBC

Meet with the Pastor

- Schedule a time to visit with the pastor to share your salvation story and your desire to become a member of FBC.
- The pastor will discuss the meaning of the gospel.
- The pastor will discuss the meaning of **baptism**. According to Scripture, there are only two requirements for **baptism**: belief in Christ and repentance from sin (salvation). In short, only a believer in Jesus Christ—someone who has turned from disobedience to God and surrendered their life to Jesus as Lord and Savior—can rightfully be **baptized**, declaring the work of the Lord in transforming their life.
- This is a personal time to understand better the meaning of the gospel, salvation, and **baptism** so that your **baptism** experience is a beautiful picture of the gospel.
- You'll be encouraged to read the key passages in the Bible regarding **baptism**.
- You will schedule a time to share your salvation story on video, which will be shown before your **baptism**.

Some Reasons to be Baptized by Immersion at FBC before becoming a member.

- You have decided to trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, but you have never been **baptized** by immersion.
- You were sprinkled as an infant and have since trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior but have never been **baptized** by immersion.
- You trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and were sprinkled but have never been **baptized** by immersion.
- You were sprinkled as an adult and have since trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior but have never been **baptized** by immersion.
- You were **baptized** by immersion earlier in your life but genuinely trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (were born again, saved, converted) later on in life and have not yet been **baptized** by immersion after your conversion.

Sharing the story of your salvation

- We like to record a video of each **baptism** candidate sharing the story of their salvation experience.

Prepare to Share Your Story by Looking at Biblical Examples

- [Acts 9:1-31](#) - Luke describes Paul's initial conversion experience on the Damascus Road.
- [Acts 22:1-21](#) - Luke shares Paul's experience as he shares his testimony to a crowd in Jerusalem.
- [Acts 26:1-32](#) - Luke shares Paul's experience as he shares his testimony before a court in Rome.

Preserve and Pray the Gospel as You Share

Key Verses: John 3:16, 14:6; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:17; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philemon 6.

Practice the Art of Sharing Your Story (See the next page for making personal notes)

1. My life before becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- What about my life before Christ will connect with most non-Christians I have a relationship with?
- What was the focus and center of my life, my security, happiness, identity, etc.?
- How did I struggle in my life before Christ?

2. How I realized my need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- How and when did I hear the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
- When did my perspective on my sins and my need for Christ change?
- What were some of my final struggles before trusting in Christ?

3. When and how I repented of my sins and confessed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

- Where was I when I trusted Christ?
- Was there anyone involved in that process?
- What were some circumstances that God used?
- What were some relevant verses of Scripture?

4. Specific ways Christ has changed my life since I became a disciple of Christ.

- How is my life different now that I'm a Christian? What has changed in my character, perspective, attitudes, and outlook on life?
- What motivates me in my life? What do I live for and focus on?
- How does Jesus help me through continued challenges and struggles in my life?

5. What Jesus is teaching me through His Word right now . . .

- What is a recent verse of Scripture that God used to help me?
- What area of your life is God currently helping you to grow in?

Practice the Art of Sharing Your Story

1. My life before becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.
2. How I realized my need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. When and how I repented of my sins and confessed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.
4. Specific ways Christ has changed my life since I became a disciple of Christ.
5. What Jesus is teaching me through His Word right now . . .

What To Bring for the day of your baptism?

If you or your child are going to participate in baptism, please bring the following . . .

- A dry change of clothes (You will get completely wet!)
- A towel
- If needed, grooming items (hair dryer, make-up, etc.)
- Friends and family to share this special time with you!

What To Wear for the day of your baptism?

- Wear what you usually wear to church.
- You will have time to change before the baptism.
- Plan to wear darker clothing for your baptism.
- Women should wear shorts or a modest swimsuit and a t-shirt top.
- Men may wear shorts or a modest swimsuit and t-shirt.
- We will also give you a baptism t-shirt to wear over your shirt during your baptism.
- Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

How Is Baptism Conducted At First Baptist Church Murphy?

1. It will usually take place at the end of a church service.
2. You may proceed to the bathrooms when the invitation begins to prepare for the baptism. Ladies may use the women's bathrooms. Guys may use the men's restrooms.
3. The church provides you with a dark grey baptismal t-shirt for each person to wear.
4. You'll take an individual picture with the pastor when you have changed into your baptism clothes and your baptism t-shirt. If more than one person in your family gets baptized, we will also take a group picture with the pastor.
5. After everyone has taken pictures, then you will line up in the hallway at the base of the baptistery stairs and wait for instructions to come into the baptistery.
6. You will walk up the baptistery stairs and then down into the baptistery.
7. Once down in the water, you will stand to the pastor's left.
8. The pastor will ask you if you have responded to the gospel by trusting in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You will respond with, "Yes!"

9. The pastor will have you turn sideways to the right. Your left side will be facing the congregation.
10. You will be able to pinch your nose so that no water enters your nose.
11. While you are being baptized, the pastor will say, *“Because of your response to the gospel in repenting of your sins and placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*
12. The pastor will lean you back under the water and then immediately bring you up out of the water. As you come out of the water, the pastor will say, *“Buried with him in the likeness of his death and raised to walk in a newness of life.”*
13. The pastor will then say, *“You have responded to the gospel by repenting of your sin and placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You have obediently been baptized as a disciple of Christ. God’s word commands you and all believers to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him by making disciples of all nations.”*
14. You may now walk out of the baptistery and to the bathroom, where you can dry off and change into your dry clothes.
15. You will receive a baptism certificate, pictures of your baptism, and a video of your baptism to help you remember this spiritual marker in your life.
16. Now that you are a part of the First Baptist Church community, we want to help you mature as a disciple of Christ and help you learn to make disciples of all nations. We want to help you find a place of service in our church using your gifts to further God’s Kingdom.