

COMMON QUESTIONS:

1.) WHY SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

- To follow the example set by Jesus. "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan [river]." - Mark 1:9
- Because Jesus commanded it. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." - Matthew 28:19-20
- Because it shows that I'm a Christian. "...And many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." - Acts 18:8
- Because following Jesus commands shows that I know him. "And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments." - 1 John 2:3

2.) WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection. "Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again." - I Corinthians 15:3-4
- It illustrates my new life as a Christian. "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- It connects me to a local group of Christians (a church). "Those who believed...were baptized and added to the church that day." - Acts 2:41

3.) HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- Like Jesus was, by being fully immersed under water. "After His baptism, Jesus came up out of the water..." - Matthew 3:16
- Like the Bible teaches - every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. "And they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." - Acts 8:38-39
 - The word Baptize means "To dip under water"
 - The Greek word Baptizo means "To immerse or dip under water"
 - Immersion best symbolized a burial and resurrection

4.) WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- Every person who has believed in Christ!
 - "Those who believed...were baptized..." - Acts 2:41
 - "But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." - Acts 8:12
 - "Simon himself believed and was baptized..." - Acts 8:13
 - Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." - Acts 8:12
- At Westside, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

5.) WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- As soon as you have accepted Jesus into your life. "Those who believed...were baptized...that day!" - Acts 2:41
- There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Jesus into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

6.) CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

- Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. Young children 8 and older who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Children's Director for a pre-baptism conversation.
- However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your decision.

7.) WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

- Go ahead and wear a dark top and dark bottoms. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide space for you to change in.

8.) WILL I HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH? WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- No. We have baptism during the music at the beginning of the service. You will be briefly lowered just under the water & raised back up out of the water. We'll take a quick picture and then you can get out, dry off, and watch the others. We will have a t-shirt for you and later you will be sent a baptism certificate & photo in the mail to remember your special experience. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.