

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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Part of the 'Growing Together'
Discipleship Stream



Baptism

- Context & Background;
- What it represents;
- Why we do it;
- What will happen.

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Context:

- “Dedication” of babies;
- Baptism as a choice when the person is old enough to make their own life choices;
- Key milestone in being a member within “*the community of believers*”.

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Symbolic Act:

- Going beneath the water: a **symbolic act / actual change**;
- Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist.

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Background:

- Jesus Christ is The Son of God;
- He made a choice;
- He didn't deserve to die - He still made that choice;
- He did all of that for a reason - He paid the price for us;

No sin is too big, or shame too deep, for Jesus to wipe it away and give us freedom

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Preparation:

- Recognised their personal need;
- Confessed their sins to Jesus;
- Committed to turn away from their old ways;
- Asked God for forgiveness;
- Through their confession, their repentance and their commitment to follow Jesus, God has forgiven them;
- Washed clean free from any guilt or shame.

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Going Forward:

- Committed to follow the teachings of Jesus;
- Part of Jesus' worldwide church;
- Will receive The Holy Spirit - their guide and their strength;
- Eagerly desire Spiritual Gifts.

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Baptism is:

- TOTAL immersion in water symbolising the washing away of our sins:
 - **Romans 6:3,4** *“all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*
 - **Acts 2:38,39** *“Repent and be baptised, 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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*
- an intentional act of obedience to God’s call.

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Why:

- Consciously joining themselves with Christ - making a public declaration;
- Choosing to be part of God's family - they stand alongside the rest of us as brothers and sisters;
- In obedience to Jesus' command:
 - **Mathew 28:19, 20.** *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

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What Next:

- Testimonies from each person in turn;
- Someone will pray for each of them;
- Time of Worship - people being baptised will go and get changed;
- Children come back in from their groups;
- Baptisms.

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