



We are so excited that you have expressed interest in being baptized! This is an important step in the life of every Christian, when you proclaim to everyone that you have decided to place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

You may have a lot of questions and we are here to help you along the way. In this packet you will find a lot of information on how to take that next step after salvation by the simple act of obedience through baptism.

Why baptism is so important

- 1) **Jesus set an example when he was baptized** (Matt 3:16-17)
- 2) **Jesus commended all believers to be baptized** (Matt. 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience to do what Jesus said to do.
- 3) **Baptism is symbol of our faith in Jesus**- letting everyone know that you love, trust, and put your hope in Jesus Christ. Baptism does not get you to heaven (Eph. 2:8-9) (Luke 23:39-43) but symbolizes our new life, just like a wedding ring symbolizes that someone is married.
- 4) **Baptism lets everyone know you are a Christian!** Baptism gives you a chance to say to the church, "I want to love Jesus and I am going to need your help." And it allows the church to acknowledge your decision and respond, "That's awesome! We are also trying to love Jesus too and we want to help you along the way!" It's like a welcome ceremony into the family of the Church.

What to Expect

Baptism ceremonies are done differently all over the world (just like weddings and other ceremonies). Here is how we do it at Shadow Mountain:

- We will pick a date that works for you to come and be baptized in one of the main church services. Students are usually baptized at Saturday Night service (Live at Five).
- You will come to church before service, meet up with Pastor Chase and will be escorted to the Baptistry area. You can bring a parent with you and there will also be a helper (called Deacon or Deaconess) to guide you through the process.
- There is a private changing room where you will change into a white robe (symbolizing being made clean and purified in Christ!).

- During the service you will get into the water in the “baptismal” (it’s like a small warm pool). Pastor Chase will introduce you to the church and you will read your testimony. It will be written down to you don’t have to memorize it)
- You will be dunked under the water (symbolizing death) and then lifted back out again (symbolizing new life in Christ).
- Everyone will cheer with excitement because they are so happy for you!
- And that’s it! You will be all wet, but the helper will give you towels and deal with the wet robe.
- You will get a video of the baptism sent to your email and a baptism certificate signed by Pastor Chase.

So what do I do now?

Here are the next steps:

1. Fill out the Baptism Application in this packet. Read the “How to Write Your Testimony” page, and “Sample Baptism Testimonies”.
2. Pastor Chase will help you develop your written testimony if needed and answer any questions that come up.
3. Once you have completed the application, return it to Pastor Chase or any staff, OR bring it to the Administrative Office. You can also email it to toni.vowles@shadowmountain.org
4. You will need to schedule an interview with Pastor Chase so you can explain that you understand what it means to be saved by Jesus, and what baptism means to you. You can do this during Middle School Ministry, or over the phone or Zoom.
5. After your interview, Pastor Chase will give your signed application to Mrs. Toni Vowles who will schedule your baptism. Mrs. Vowles will coordinate with you and will get you any additional information, such as where you should go and what you will need on the day of your baptism, and your signed certificate at the end.

I am so excited for you and your decision to be baptized! This will be a moment of your life you will never forget, and we are so happy to be sharing it with you. If you need anything at all, please feel free to call or email me!



Chase Eurich
Middle School Ministry Pastor
Shadow Mountain Community Church

How to Write Your Baptism Testimony

The next thing you need to do is prepare a brief testimony (150 words or less) to share your story of coming to faith in Christ with the congregation. The following are some things to keep in mind as you prepare.

1. Our goal is to keep the testimony to between one and 1 ½ minutes in length. Be diligent to keep it to about 150 words.
2. Tell the story of how you came to know Christ. How did you learn that you needed to trust Christ as your savior?
3. Was there a particular set of circumstances that prepared your heart or a special friend who helped lead you to Christ? If so, tell the story briefly.
4. Include the fact that you are placing your trust in Jesus alone for forgiveness of sin. Tell how you realized you were a sinner, asked Jesus to forgive your sins, and placed your trust in Him for eternal life.
5. Tell how your life has changed since you became a believer.
6. If you would like to, you may share a Bible verse that has to do with salvation.
7. You may conclude your testimony by telling the church, "I am being baptized today in obedience to the Lord's command and to tell the world that I am a Christian."

The overall idea is to make it clear that you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, and that your salvation is based on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, not on your "works" (being *good* vs. being *bad*). You are obeying Christ in baptism, which symbolizes the decision you already made. Because of your faith in Christ, He has given you a new life.

Make sure to read the sample testimonies to get ideas of what to say. And feel free to ask for help! You can reach Pastor Chase at middleschoolyouth@shadowmountain.org or call 619-590-1710.

That's it! Write your testimony and be ready to share it with Pastor Chase when we have our interview.