



Baptism

Going all-in with Jesus



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Let's Go!

First things, first. The decision to go all-in with Jesus is the greatest decision you will ever make! There's nothing better!

As a student, we know you have a lot coming at you. There are so many voices trying to speak into what you say, what you do, and who you are. We get it. It can be overwhelming.

As the kstudents team, we're here to walk with you, answer questions, and cheer you on! We're excited for you!

Before we meet to talk through your decision, we'd love for you to read through this small packet. In the pages that follow, you will find information about what baptism is, why we do it, and what the process looks like here at Kingsway. When you see Bible verses referenced, take time to look them up. When questions are asked, think about your answers. If you have questions of your own, don't be afraid to ask.

We look forward to connecting with you to celebrate your decision!

Let's go!



Where Does it Start?

Choosing to follow Jesus means you've recognized a few things.

One -

We need Jesus. All of us have messed up and our sin separates us from God. Aside from Jesus, none of us have ever gotten it all right (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

Two -

Our mess doesn't have to define us (Romans 8:1). God longs for a relationship with us and Jesus made it possible (Romans 5:6-8). He doesn't leave us stranded to figure out how. Forgiveness and the promise of eternal life are ours to have when we say yes to following Him (John 3:16; 1 John 1:9).

Three -

You can't do it on your own. It's not a prize to earn. It's a gift to receive. That's grace. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). And, when we chose to follow Jesus, He promises us the Holy Spirit to guide us (John 14:15-26; Acts 2:38).

Piece that all together and you'll see that, simply put, we've messed up, but Jesus makes a relationship with God possible (John 14:6-7). Those who choose to trust Him, obey Him, and follow Him have the promise of forgiveness for the messes we make and the gift of eternal life. It's His promise to save us.

So, where does it start?

It starts with believing that Jesus is who He says He is (Mark 16:16; Acts 16:29-34; Matthew 16:13-16). **When you believe in something, it changes you.** Believing in Jesus leads you to a change of heart. You repent and make a u-turn (Acts 2:36-41). **When you believe in something you let people know.** You confess it, own it, and declare it (Romans 10:9-13). **When you believe in something, you go all-in.** Baptism is taking the plunge and going all-in with Jesus (Acts 2:37-38; 1 Peter 3:21-22).

What is Baptism?

For all who believe that Jesus is who He says He is, repent, and confess Him as Lord and Savior, baptism is the next step. So, what is baptism?

A Picture & Identity

Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did, and a way for us to identify with what He's already done through His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:12). In baptism you're saying you find your identity in Jesus. There's nothing magic about the water. Before you step foot in the water, heart change has already started. In faith you've already said, "I'm choosing to follow Jesus."

An Act of Obedience & Following His Example

It's what Jesus did and it's what He asks of us (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:37-39; Matthew 28:18-20).

When Does it Happen?

In the Bible, the book of Acts gives us some great insight to what life was like for followers of Jesus in the early church, including many stories of baptism. Those choosing to follow Jesus by faith were immediately baptized as a response to the gift of forgiveness and new life. Here are a few examples to get you started: Acts 2:36-39, 8:12-13, 8:34-39, 9:18, 10:44-48. For those in the early church, baptism quickly followed their confession of Jesus. Today, as a church, we desire to follow their example and respond with the same sense of urgency.

How Does it Happen?

Baptizo is the Greek word for baptism. Greek was the original language of the New Testament. Baptizo literally means “to dunk or immerse.” In following the examples we find in the Bible, baptism is a full immersion in the water. Taking the plunge and going fully under points us back to what baptism is. It’s identifying with Jesus and His death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism is more than just the water and a free t-shirt. It’s a powerful picture of the life change we have in Jesus.

Where Does it Happen?

Anywhere there is water. Here at Kingsway, we have a baptismal in the main worship center that’s always ready to go!

Who Can Baptize You?

Anyone who has already been baptized by immersion. Most people will choose someone who has been influential in their faith and played an important part in their decision to follow Jesus. It can be a family member, a friend, a mentor, a group leader, or a pastor.

Questions to Ponder

God wants a relationship with you, and He wants to do something new in you. Sin messed everything up, but God didn't sit back and just hope for the best. He stopped at nothing to make it possible for a relationship to happen. He sent Jesus.

- How does God's pursuit of you make you feel?
- How does it make you want to respond?

Choices are important. We make roughly 10-25 thousand choices a day! When you make the choice to follow Jesus and go all-in with Him, you're saying, "I can't do this on my own. My ways haven't worked. I need Jesus and I'm ready to do things His way."

- In what ways have you tried to find fulfillment and meaning without Jesus? Have any of them worked or lasted?
- Why is it important to make Jesus the Lord of your life?
- Are you ready to say to Jesus, "I need you. I'm ready to go all-in with you."?

Following Jesus is not a decision you make and never think about again. Surrendering and submitting to Jesus happens daily. It becomes the filter to use for every other choice you make. Going all-in with Jesus means no longer putting your desires first, but rather pursuing His desires first. It's a decision to honor Him with your choices, even when it's hard.

- What do you think will be the hardest part of living for Jesus?

The decision to follow Jesus isn't the final destination. It's just the beginning. It's about growing, and we want you to know that you're not alone! Being connected with other believers is so important. Our kstudents team is here to help you with that!

Baptism at Kingsway

Baptism Form

Baptism can happen anywhere there is water! If you want to get baptized at Kingsway, we can help make that happen. The first step is to fill out a form to let us know you're ready. A link to the form is on the student page of the Kingsway app. Whether your baptism happens during a service or outside of service times, this helps us connect with you to make sure we don't miss anything.

Meet with kstudents Staff

After you fill out the form, we ask that you meet with someone on our team. We'll talk through your decision as well as what to expect the day of your baptism.

Baptism Day

- We provide a t-shirt to be baptized in, AND you get to keep it! We also have shorts available to wear, but feel free to bring your own.
- If your baptism is happening on a Sunday morning, please arrive at the Connect Hub 20-minutes before the service and someone will be ready to lead you where you need to go.