City Students Baptism Talksheet

We're so glad that you're taking a look at this Baptism Talksheet, because it means you're interested in getting baptized, and that is fantastic!

Baptism is a statement about your decision to follow Jesus with your life. Baptism isn't a guarantee of a trouble-free life. Rather, it is something that God tells us to do as part of our journey with him- making our faith public and telling people that we're proud to follow Jesus. Because Baptism is such a significant decision, it's important that you take time to think about what it means. You should make sure you understand it, pray about it, and talk about it with your parents. We hope this short document can help you do just that. It's not long, but don't rush through it. Take your time, read the scriptures listed, take some notes, and try to seek God on this topic.

First Thoughts

- **If a friend asked you what baptism means, what would you say?**
- **How do you think being baptized will affect your life?**
- **What questions do you currently have about baptism?**

Why get baptized?

This might seem backwards, but before you think about all the reasons you should get baptized, it's important to know one reason you shouldn't get baptized. Sorry if that's confusing, but check out the following passage and the questions that go with it…

Look up Ephesians 2:1-10. Pay close attention to verses 8-9…*waiting while you read it*….

Take a few minutes to consider the following questions.

- **Do you think you've sinned and if so, is that a problem?**
- **How do you feel when you think about your sin?**
- **What does Scripture (see the Ephesians passage you just read) say saves us from our sin?**
- **Do you have to get baptized to have a relationship with God?**

Baptism declares that you believe Jesus died to forgive your sins and that you want to follow him. Baptism, though, doesn't "save" you from your sins; it's a celebration of what you already believe and know to be true.

Only God's grace, through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, saves us from our sins. It's something HE does.

Baptism is important, but you shouldn't get baptized because you want to go to Heaven. If you've never placed your faith in Jesus as the leader of your life and forgiver of your sins, consider now if that's a decision you want to make. Talk to your parents about it and pray with them.

So why SHOULD you get baptized? So glad you asked! Keep reading…

Look up Mark 1:1-10 and read it… *waiting some more while you read it*… Here we see that even Jesus was baptized. When we get baptized, we're following his example. When Jesus was baptized, he was declaring his loyalty to God the father. We do the same thing when we're baptized.

Look up Romans 6:1-4…*you know the drill by now…* Paul describes how baptism "joins us" with Jesus. Going under the water represents Christ's death and coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection.

- **What does it mean to live a new life (v. 4)?**

<u>Baptism represents the new life we have when place our faith in Jesus.</u>

Check out the following verses from the end of Jesus life and the beginning of the church to see how baptism was discussed and practiced then: Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:35-38

- **When do you think someone should be baptized?**
- **Do you have to take time to get everything "straightened up" in your life before you get baptized? Why or why not?**

<u>Placing your faith in Jesus is the only requirement for baptism. It's not about saying you "have it all together." It's about saying you know you DON'T have it all together, but you do know Jesus, who loves you despite your sin, and you want to be identified with Him.</u>

Hopefully these passages and questions have helped you get some clarity on baptism. Talk to your parents about what you've learned and/or questions you still have. If you feel like you understand what baptism means and you're ready for that step, let your parents know. If you feel like you're NOT READY, that's fine! Keep reading, praying, and seeking God.

Contact Matt with any questions about opportunities for baptism at Church of the City. email- Matt@churchofthecity.com