



FLOOD YOUTH / BAPTISM WELCOME PACKET

Baptism is a big deal and we are excited for you!

Dear Parents and Students,

We are so excited you desire to take this step in your faith journey! This is truly a special time of your life and we hope this entire process is memorable and enjoyable for you and your family.

This packet will help you have a clear understanding of your decision to be baptized. As you go through this workbook, you will learn about...

- o *Salvation*
- o *Growing as a Christian*
- o *Baptism*

PARENTS - In order to use this workbook successfully:

- o Review each page carefully (prior to beginning with your student) and complete the pages together as instructed.
- o NOTE: give special attention to **key** words highlighted throughout the reading.
- o Simply walk through each page sequentially with your child. WE pray you have great discussions as questions arise.
- o Allow yourself 30-45 minutes to complete the entire workbook.
- o Save your packet when finished and bring it to the follow up meeting with us.

You'll need the following items:

- o Pencil for child to write with
- o Bible (preferably a version such as the New Living Translation or NIV)
- o Five 3x5 cards (or equivalent)
- o A \$1 bill

Have fun with your student and be ready to learn (or re-learn) something yourself! We look forward to meeting with you when it is completed! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Warmly,

Mike "Mookie" Cunningham
Youth & Families Pastor
MikeCunningham@DIVEintoFLOOD.com
(619) 495-0093

// SALVATION

What is Salvation?

Salvation is God giving us a way to be rid of our sin so that we can be close to God now AND forever. The closer to God we are, the more **joy** we have.

- o Why do you think it's important to have a good relationship with God *now*?

- o Do you know how long *forever* is? _____
- o What does *joy* mean? _____

Why does God want to save us?

God loves us and wants to be close to us. He also wants us to be close with each other. That's why God wants us free from the separating power of sin.

Why do we need saving?

Sin is anything that keeps us from God and each other. All of us have sin and there is no way to get rid of it on our own. Sin hurts God's heart, our heart, and often the hearts of people around us. Sin grows when we choose to disobey God (do the opposite of what God wants). The **Bible** is where we learn what God wants for us.

>> Activity >>

- 1) Take some 3x5 cards and write down some examples of sins that you can think of (examples: lying, being mean, cheating, etc.)
- 2) Talk about times when you have done something that God didn't want you to do.
- 3) Look up **Romans 3:23**. Who are sinners? _____
- 4) Read **Romans 6:23**. What is our punishment for sin? _____

When you break a law, there is a punishment and/or consequence.

- o Students, ask your parents if they have ever received a traffic ticket before.
- o What was the punishment for getting a ticket?

The Bible says that the consequence for our sin is death. **REMEMBER:** *sin separates us from God, our life source*. Not only does our body stop working, but also our relationship with God is broken (it is similar to when you disobey your parents and then you have a hard time talking to them after).

EXAMPLE: When people are found guilty of breaking the law, like speeding on the highway, they have to pay a fine as a punishment. In the same way, breaking God's law has consequences that deserve punishment. The problem is, no one could ever, ever, pay the price for breaking God's law. That's a BIG problem, isn't it?

The GOOD NEWS about the problem of sin

1) Read the second sentence of **Romans 6:23**. What does God say His gift to us is?

2) Tell your parents what your favorite gift of all time is: _____

3) Now ask your parent to hold the \$1 bill in their hand. If they were giving that \$1 bill, what would you have to do to make it yours? _____

BONUS: Ask your parents if they've ever received a check (worth money) as a gift. Now, ask them what they had to do before they could deposit this free check.

4) God's gift to us works in a similar way. He gives us the free gift of eternal life, but we have to accept it from him. We have to say, "Yes, God! I will receive your gift." **Baptism** is a way of saying, "Yes!" to God.

Remembering *Salvation*: It's as easy as A, B, C...

Accepting God's Gift

Admit that you sin and turn to God for forgiveness.

>> *Activity* >>

1) Read **1 John 1:9**. What does the verse say we should do with our sins?

2) What does the verse say God will do when we confess our sins?

When he forgives our sins, the Bible says He removes them as far as the east is from the west (**Psalms 103:12**). Whew... That's a LONG way!

3) Take the 3x5 cards from earlier, tear them up, and throw them away. They are now gone, just like our sins when God forgives us!

4) Read **Acts 3:19**. What do we do so that we can be clean from our sins?

Turning from our sins means to completely turn around and go the other way. God wants us to completely turn away from our sins.

Have you ever tried to ride on a skateboard and do a “180”? If not, maybe you’ve seen someone do it. It’s when a skateboarder is going one way and then suddenly turns the board around to go in the opposite direction. That’s what God wants us to do with our sin; He wants us to go in the opposite direction from it.

Believe with faith that Jesus died for YOU!

Do you remember the punishment for sin? That’s right... it’s death! Someone has to die for our sin and Jesus (God’s one and only son) took our place and died for our sin. Jesus took the punishment we deserved.

The Bible says that if we believe that Jesus died for us, we can be **saved** (which means receiving God’s free gift and following Jesus with our mind, heart, and actions).

Read **Romans 10:9**. What does the second part say?

Belief is agreeing with everything Jesus says is true.

Believing is following Jesus with your actions (the way you live your life).

Faith is trusting and relying on God for your life and happiness.

Call on Jesus to come into your life!

Read **John 1:12-13**. What does verse 12 and the first sentence of verse 13 say about what happens when we believe and accept Jesus?

God REALLY WANTS us to be a part of His family. That is why He sent Jesus to take our punishment and die in our place. When we believe that Jesus died for us, we are accepting the gift that God wants to give us for FREE.

As verse 13 says, it is like being “re-born” into God’s family. One day, just like we live with our families on earth, we will go to heaven and live with God’s family.

God’s gift is MUCH BETTER than any gift we could ever get!

// GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

A **Christian** is someone who has received God's gift of salvation, and follows Jesus Christ with his or her mind, heart, and actions.

When we accept God's free gift, God wants us to take the next step and grow! Look up the following verses and fill in the blank to learn how you can grow as a Christian.

John 1:41 - God wants us to tell _____

1 John 2:3-6 - God wants us to _____

Ephesians 3:20 - God gives us His _____

Philippians 4:6-7 - God wants us to _____

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - God wants us to _____

Hebrews 10:24-25 - God wants us to _____

// BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is showing others that you have received God's gift of salvation and are now a part of His family as a beloved son or daughter.

- o Ask your mom or dad what "beloved" means.
- o Have you ever been a part of a team or seen a sports team?

Teams wear uniforms so you know what team they are a part of. In the same way, being baptized is saying, "I'm a part of God's family and team!"

Baptism is not...

Baptism is not a way to get to heaven. The only way to be a part of God's family and live in eternity with Him is by believing in Jesus. Baptism is simply an act of obedience (after we decide we are a Christian) to show others that we are a part of God's family.

Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** - Is there anything we can do on our own to be saved? _____

A **gift** is FREE and we do not need to do anything but accept it.

Why should a Christian be baptized?

Read **Matthew 28:19**. Jesus' followers were told to "make disciples". Then they were told to do something with those disciples. What were they told to do?

A **disciple** is the same thing as a Christian: someone who receives God's gift of salvation, and follows Jesus with his or her mind, heart, and actions.

One of the ways we follow Jesus in action is by being baptized.

- o Did you know that Jesus was baptized*?
- o Read **Mark 1:9-11**.

**Though Jesus was without sin, he was baptized to lead us and identify with us. Then later, by dying on the cross, Jesus transferred our sin onto Him, and transferred his sinlessness onto us. BONUS: Try to memorize this way of remembering: "He became as we are so that we could become as he is."*

Finally, being baptized shows others that we are part of God's family. **Romans 6:4** says that when we are baptized, it is telling everyone that we believe in Jesus and that we are in God's family. It also allows everyone in God's family to welcome us in!

How does Baptism work?

Baptism means, "to go under the water".

When we are baptized, we are "dipped" under the water. It is safe because there is at least one other Christian helping you go under water quickly, and raise you back up.

Baptism is like a picture (see **Romans 6:3-5**):

- o Standing in the water is a picture of Jesus on the cross, taking our punishment that we deserved.
- o Going under the water is a picture of Jesus being buried in the tomb.
- o Coming up out of the water is a picture of Jesus being raised on the third day.

Baptism is nothing to be afraid of. We will talk more about what happens when we meet.

Who should be baptized?

Anyone who has accepted God's free gift and becomes a Christian should be baptized. Remember that baptism is showing that we believe in Jesus and what He did for us. It is showing others that we are a part of God's family. **Acts 2:41** says that those who believed were baptized.

When is it the right time for you to be baptized?

You are ready to be baptized when you have accepted God's free gift and fully believe Jesus died on the cross for you. You are ready when you can't wait to tell others that you are a part of God's family!

Do you believe in Jesus and have become a part of God's family?

YES

I'm not sure

Do you want to tell everyone you are a part of God's family by getting baptized?

YES

I'm not sure