

WESTSIDECHURCH

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Getting Baptised?

We are so thrilled that you have decided to make a public proclamation of your faith through baptism. Baptism isn't for perfect people, it is for those who place their faith in a perfect Saviour. This document provides a simple guide to help you prepare for the day.

How to Prepare

- **Understand the meaning:** Take time to learn about the significance of baptism and what it represents.
- **Pray:** Ask God for opportunities to share your faith and invite others to witness your baptism.
- **Invite your people:** Bring along as many family and friends as you can. They'll be warmly welcomed and given seats up the front.
- **Confirm the details:** Double-check the day and time of your baptism with the church office.
- **Prepare your testimony:** If you're sharing a short talk, write it out beforehand (keep it to one A4 page).

Try to include:

- What your life was like before meeting Jesus
 - How you came to know Him
 - What has changed since then
- **Plan your clothing:** Wear a dark shirt and shorts suitable for getting wet. Bring a full change of clothes for after the baptism.
 - **Don't forget a towel!**

What Happens on the Day?

- **Arrive early:** Come to the service 30 minutes before it starts. Connect with the person baptising you and your campus pastor—they'll show you where to store your clothes, get changed, and explain what will happen.
- **Heading to the pool:** When it's time, you'll be called onto the stage together with your friend and both step into the pool.
- **The question of faith:** Your friend will ask, "Do you declare Jesus as your Lord and Saviour" You'll respond, "I have."
- **The baptism moment:** Place your hands on your chest. Your friend will place one hand on your back and one over your hands, then gently lower you fully under the water.
- **Afterward:** As you rise out of the water, they will pray a blessing over your life and then help you step out of the pool.

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What to Expect Afterwards

It's normal to experience some doubts or emotional lows in the days after your baptism. Baptism is such a powerful and public step of faith that it's natural for the initial excitement to settle. Some people also notice extra challenges or tensions in relationships. This can sometimes be the enemy trying to discourage you or distract you from growing closer to God.

Don't be alarmed—simply recognise it for what it is, and stand firm in your faith and testimony. Remember, you belong to Jesus, and He is with you.

Next steps: Keep growing in your faith by joining a small group or serving on a team at church. Staying connected to others will help strengthen and encourage you.

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Baptising Someone?

It is a great privilege to baptise someone – to do so plays a special part in their life and yours. It helps to be confident of what to do and say on the day, so you and the one being baptised can be relaxed and focused on such a special moment.

How to Prepare

- **Arrive early:** Be at the church 30 minutes before the service. Connect with the person you're baptising and walk them through what to expect.
- **Clothing:** Bring suitable clothes (black preferred), a towel, and a change of clothes for after the baptism.
- **Confirm timing:** Speak with the service leader to confirm exactly when the baptism will take place.
- **Explain the process:** Show the person how you'll both stand in the pool and how you'll guide them through the baptism.

What to Do and Say During the Baptism

- **Entering the pool:** When called to the stage, walk with the person and step into the pool ahead of them.
- **Positioning:** Have them stand with their back to the pool stairs, while you stand ready to support.
- **Hand placement:** Guide them to place their hands on their chest. Place your right hand over theirs and your left hand on their back.
- **Question of faith:** Ask, "Do you declare Jesus as your Lord and Saviour" They will respond, "I have."
- **Declaration:** Say, "Based on your confession, I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."
- **The baptism:** Gently lean them back so they are fully immersed under the water, then lift them back up.
- **Blessing:** Pray a short blessing over their life.
- **Afterwards:** Help them out of the pool and lead them to where you can both change into dry clothes.