



ARE THEY READY?

A Parent-Child Baptism Discussion Guide

This guide is designed to help you discern your child's readiness for baptism. It isn't a Bible study or a checklist—it's a set of questions to help you have a genuine, low-pressure conversation. The goal isn't to test your child or chase "right answers," but to understand what they believe about Jesus and how they're responding to Him. Take your time. Listen well. Don't force a decision in one sitting. Use these questions over time—in the car, at the table, on a walk—where conversation happens naturally.

GETTING THE CONVO STARTED

- What made you start thinking about baptism?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to get baptized?
- What makes you want to be baptized?

TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS

- Why do you think we need to be saved?
- What is sin, and why is it so bad?
- Who is Jesus? What did Jesus do for us?
- How are we saved?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- Why do you need to be saved?
- If someone were to ask you, "Why do you believe in Jesus?" What would you say?
- What do you think it means to follow Jesus?
- What do you think repentance means?

WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?

- Tell me what you think baptism means.
- If baptism doesn't save us, why is it important?
- What does baptism show other people?

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER BAPTISM?

- Why do you think baptism happens in front of the church?
- What do you think the church is?
- Who do you know can help you follow Jesus?
- How do Christians keep growing in their relationship with Jesus?



SO...IS MY CHILD READY?

Baptism is a first step, not a finish line. There is no pressure to rush this decision. At Stonegate, our hope is that your child would look back on baptism as the moment their joy in Jesus became public—not something they did before they truly understood. These questions are simply a tool to help you discern readiness. Ultimately, wisdom and prayer—not a checklist—guide that decision.

HOW DOES YOUR CHILD RESPOND TO THEIR OWN SIN?

Baptism is not for “good kids,” but for those who believe the gospel. Genuine faith grows over time, but it begins with humility, repentance, and trust in Jesus. When your child does something wrong (for example, hitting a sibling or speaking disrespectfully), ask questions like:

- *Can you explain why what you did was a sin?*
- *What does God say about sin?*
- *What do you think you should do next?*

Pay close attention to their responses. Do they acknowledge wrongdoing? Do they recognize their need for God’s forgiveness, or do they focus primarily on avoiding consequences?

WHAT DO OTHER TRUSTED FRIENDS SEE?

As parents, it can be hard to see clearly. At times we see our children through rose-colored glasses; at other times, their immaturity or disobedience can cloud our judgment. For that reason, inviting input from other believers who know your child well can bring wisdom and clarity. God designed discipleship to happen in community, not in isolation.

ARE YOU—THE PARENT—OKAY WITH WAITING?

As parents, we want what is best for our children—and what’s best for our children is knowing Jesus. Because baptism flows from personal faith, waiting can be a wise and loving act of discipleship. As you listen to your child’s responses and consider what you and other trusted believers observe in their life, you will likely arrive at one of three conclusions:

Conclusion 1: *“My child seems to truly believe in Jesus and is probably ready for baptism.”*

If that’s your conclusion, then reach out to us and let us help you walk through the process.

Conclusion 2: *“My child seems to genuinely understand, but needs more time.”*

Remember: baptism displays a person’s joy in Jesus. It is not what saves them. It’s totally okay for your child to wait, learn, and grow.

Conclusion 3: *“My child doesn’t understand the gospel and needs to learn more about Jesus.”*

Your child knowing and enjoying Jesus is the only goal that matters. At Stonegate, we want to resource you with gospel books and resources that can help your family grow in their understanding and faith in Jesus. If you’d like access to these resources, let us know and we’ll be happy to share them with you.

You are not alone. We share your desire for your child to know and enjoy Jesus, and we are walking with you. We are praying for your family as you seek to follow Him together.