

## Being Baptized at Hopevale

Since the church began, believers around the world have identified with the Lord Jesus through this simple, beautiful rite in water. Being baptized is an important and joyful first step in following Him!

So many believers say that baptism confirmed their commitment to follow Jesus. They also talk about the joy and freedom that came from saying publicly, “I give my life—body, soul, and spirit—to Jesus Christ. I will trust and obey Him all my life.” No doubt, that’s one reason Jesus commanded the church to baptize everyone who believes in Him as the first step in being His disciple!

## Our Next Baptism

Our next churchwide baptism at Hopevale will be **Sunday, April 10, in all three worship services**. Each service is dedicated to the celebration of new life in Christ through the symbol of baptism. You’ll love the stories of faith!

## Preparation Class

If you’re thinking about being baptized, we ask that you take the preparation class, *Being Baptized at Hopevale*. Our next classes are **Friday, March 18, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. OR Saturday, March 19, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.**

## Questions?

You may have questions about believer’s baptism at Hopevale. Many do. Does baptism save me? What if I was baptized as a baby? What do I need to wear? Here’s how to get answers to your questions:

- ⇒ Attend one of the baptism classes on March 18 or 19. (You’re welcome to come for information only.)
- ⇒ Pick up a baptism brochure in the auditorium entry ways.
- ⇒ Copy this link to Hopevale’s website—<http://hopevale.org/baptism>.

***Children can be baptized, too.*** The Bible teaches “believer’s baptism”: When a person consciously trusts in Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord, she is ready to be baptized. Children often have that clear testimony of faith in Christ, and we parents should support their desire to be baptized. It takes wisdom and discernment. Jodi Quinn (KidCity Director) and Sam Burke (NextGen Pastor) can help you. Stop by the Children’s or Student’s Desks for more information.

## Understanding Baptism

## Identify With Jesus

*When it comes to us today, if you think about it, the need for baptism and the need for the followers of Jesus to be identified with Him is stronger than ever.* Pastor Dan

1. How did you understand baptism as you were growing up? How do you understand it now?
2. Read Mark 1:1-15. What are all the ways John's baptism is described? In verse 8, how does Mark say Jesus' baptism would be different from John's baptism? The same?
3. What part does baptism have in *identifying* us with Jesus—Matthew 28:19-20 and Romans 6:1-4?
4. What more do you learn about believer's baptism in these verses:
  - Acts 2:41—
  - Acts 8:36—
  - Acts 18:8—
5. Have you been baptized as a believer? If you have, share your experience with the group—when, where, how?
6. What questions do you have about baptism at Hopevale?

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.* Mark 1:9