

TALKING TO YOUR ELEMENTARY KIDS ABOUT BAPTISM

If you've been around Calvary for a few weeks, months, or even years, it's natural for your child to start asking about baptism. They hear about it in Calvary Kids or see it happening at our weekend services. What can you do when your child starts inquiring about baptism?

- **Be excited!** Show them that you are happy they are asking questions. Tell them you are glad that they are listening and watching in their classes, or in church.
- **Ask questions.** Questions such as:
 - *Why* are you thinking about being baptized? Some kids want to because a friend did, or maybe to start taking communion, or because they want to go in the water. Try to understand their motives.
 - *When* would you like to be baptized? Sometimes this answer can also help you understand their motives.
 - *What* does it mean to be baptized?
 - *How long* have you been thinking about being baptized?
- **Seek out your own understanding of baptism.** If you yourself have not thought about baptism, it may be important for you to seek information at your own level. Feel free to visit our baptism page at calvary.ch/get-baptized, or call the church office!
- **Pray for wisdom as a parent.** Just because a child is asking about baptism doesn't necessarily mean that they are ready. It's okay to say, "Let's continue to talk and pray about this for six months or a year." Sometimes kids will not bring it up again, and that is okay. God will continue to lead them to this decision as you teach and guide them. Don't panic if they don't bring it up again. If you'd like, it's also fine to ask them, "Have you thought any more about being baptized?" You will be able to tell a lot by their persistence.
- **Sign up for our optional children's baptism study.** This 6-week study is designed to help walk your elementary (1st-5th grade) child through their baptism decision. The study helps both you and your child understand baptism. It is a great resource for families who are not sure if their child is ready. Some children complete the study and decide to wait; others decide they are ready. Find information at calvary.ch/kids-baptism.
- **Understand that God calls everyone at a different age.** There is no set age when a child is ready. Some children decide at a young elementary-age; others make the decision when they are a bit older. If a child of 5 or 6 years of age is requesting to be baptized, please know that we would really ask that you proceed with caution. It is our belief that a child that young generally cannot grasp the importance of their decision.
- **Contact us with any questions.** We would love to help. Visit calvary.ch/kids or contact the church office to find us!