

baptism at the Vineyard

The first story in the Bible about Jesus as an adult is His baptism. The last thing Jesus said to His disciples before ascending into heaven was that they should go throughout the world making disciples and baptizing them. Baptism is obviously a very important activity in the New Testament.

Baptism is also a subject that Christians don't all agree about. Here at the Vineyard, we view it as a secondary issue, allowing some room for disagreement between sincere believers. We have, nonetheless, tried to be faithful to the Bible and faithful to what the church has done historically. Here is how we would answer some of the most frequently asked questions about baptism:

for more info

Please feel free to contact the church (484-5999) if you have any other questions or concerns about the process of getting baptized at the Vineyard.

We offer baptisms four times a year during our VineLife Night of Worship. A mandatory baptism class is offered prior to the event.

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What does the Vineyard
believe about
Baptism?



why should I be baptized?

1) You don't need to be baptized to be a Christian. The New Testament teaches that a person becomes a Christ-follower by repentance from sin and faith in Christ. "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38) In Luke 23, the thief on the cross recognized who Jesus was, reached out to Him, and Jesus promised him salvation. That dying thief had no opportunity to be baptized.

2) You do need to be baptized to be obedient to Jesus. We are commanded to be baptized as a part of being His disciple. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19) Thus, we don't get baptized when we "feel like it," or when we "get around to it" or when we are "led to it by the Lord." Baptism is one of only two ordinances or rituals that Jesus commands us to observe for all time. The other is communion.

3) Baptism is a public profession of your faith. Baptism is done before a group of people who witness your confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is not the only way we profess to be a Christian, but it is an important way.

4) Baptism symbolizes washing away your sin. Throughout the New Testament, baptism indicated that a person had "repented" or turned away from sin. The apostles often referred to the fact that believers were washed of their sin. Peter stated that the water in baptism symbolized not the cleansing of the body from dirt, but the cleansing of the conscience. (1 Peter 3:21)

5) Baptism symbolizes your union with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. When you become a Christian, you die to sin and your old way of life and you begin a whole new life. Romans 6:8 states, "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him." The very act of baptism (being immersed in water and coming up out of the water) is a picture of what happens spiritually.

what if I have been baptized before?

Perhaps you were baptized as an infant or as a ritual prior to truly becoming a Christian. How should you view that baptism? In the case of infant baptism, you certainly want to show respect to your parents and their viewpoints. Our understanding, however, of what the Bible teaches is that baptism is an action that follows conversion. So, if you have not been baptized since you have made a decision to follow Christ, we recommend it.

how should I be baptized?

The Vineyard believes that people should be baptized by immersion as opposed to sprinkling or pouring. The term "baptize" literally means to immerse. This was how people in the Bible were baptized. Also, immersion best symbolizes what happens spiritually when you put your faith in God.

can my children be baptized?

Absolutely, as long as they thoroughly understand what they are doing. The Vineyard requires that your children be able to intelligently make a profession of faith that is their own and explain what that means. We suggest waiting until the child is 6 years old. We certainly believe that a young child can be a believing Christian, but the older a child is, the more they will understand and the more meaningful baptism will be for them. They do not need to be baptized in order to become Christians.

when should I be baptized?

You should be baptized as soon as possible after you have personally trusted Christ for salvation. You are not baptized in order to become a Christian; you are baptized because you are a Christian. We should not put off baptism, since it is a command of Jesus. You can contact the church office at 484-5999 to find out when the next baptism will take place.