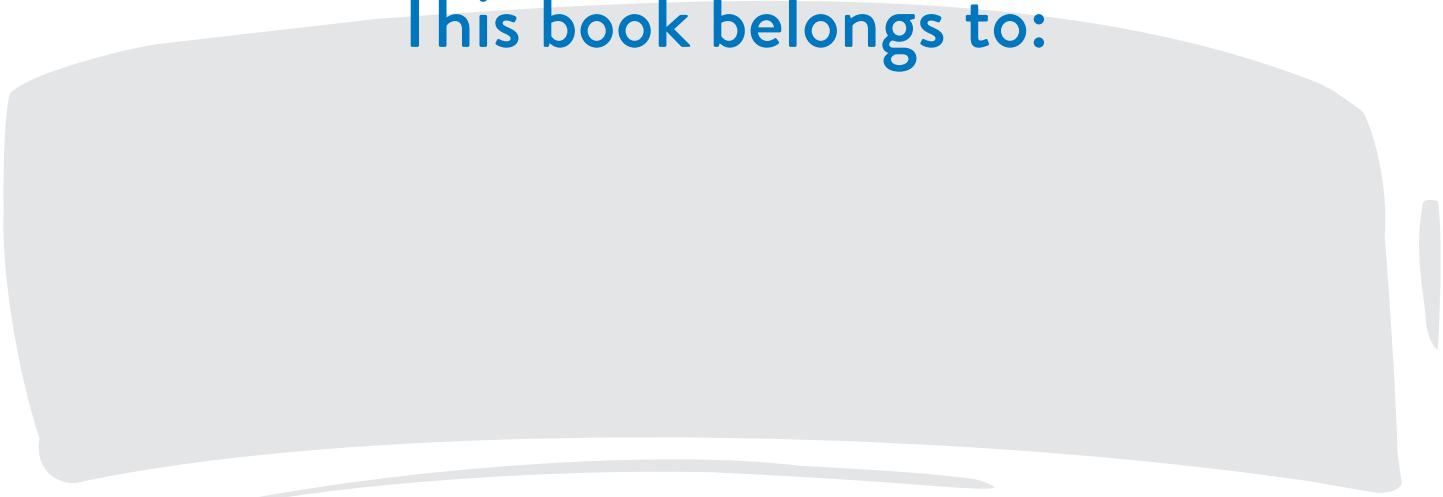
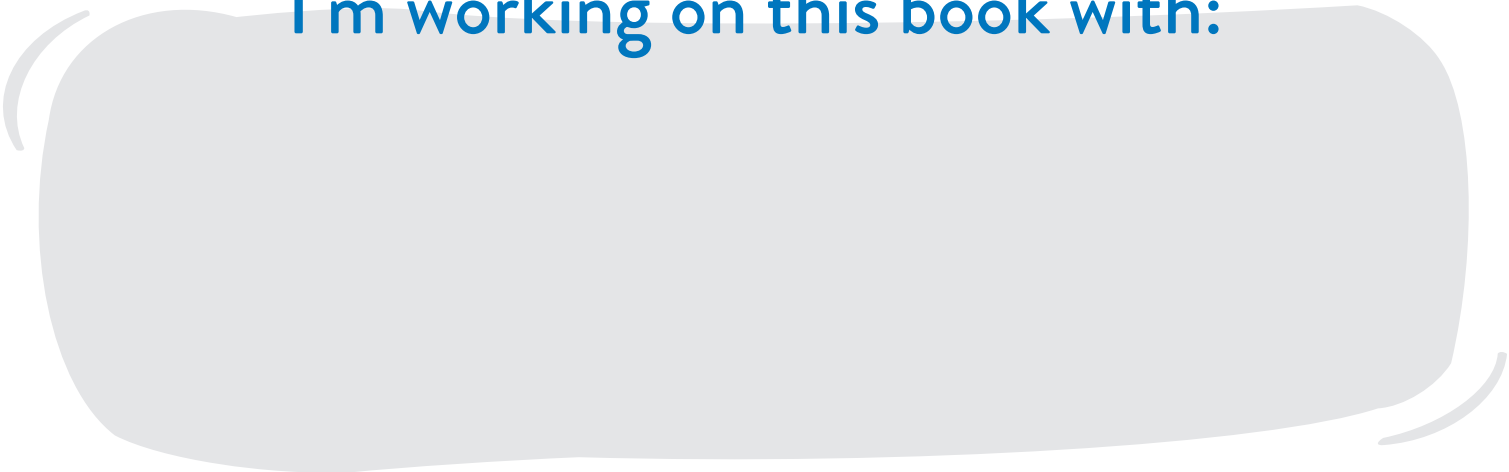


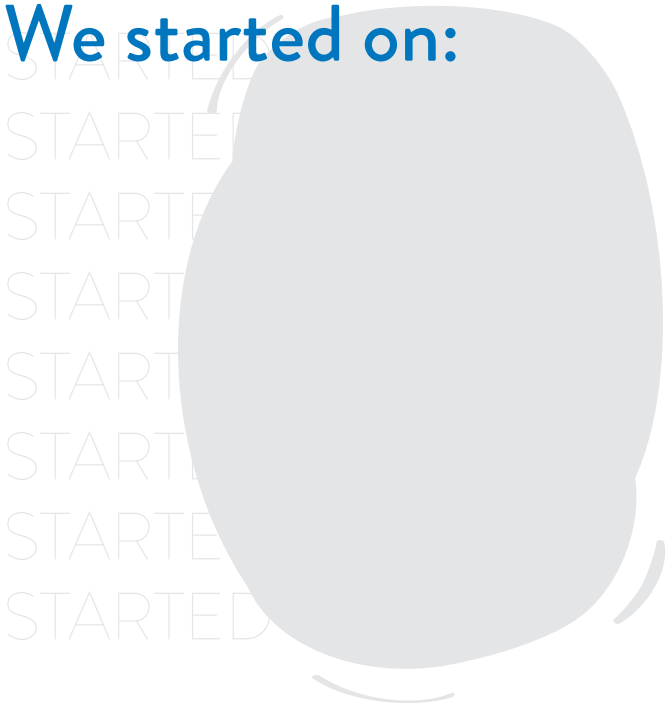
This book belongs to:



I'm working on this book with:



We started on:



We finished on:





This book is designed for inquisitive kids and awesome parents who want to discover what the Bible has to say about water baptism.

By the time you have finished this book you will be experts on the subject of water baptism. Well . . . maybe not experts, but you'll know enough to feel confident about what water baptism is and what it means.

DISCUSS

Have you ever seen someone being baptized in water?
What did you notice?

Order

Some things have to be done in a specific order, but not everything. When most people wake up in the morning, they have a certain order that they follow.

For example, the first thing one person does is brush their teeth. For some reason, they just can't stand taking a shower with stinky breath. Would it really matter if they changed this order? Would it make any difference if they took a shower first and then brushed their teeth next? No!

With other things, order really does matter! You always put on your socks before you put on your shoes. What would happen if you switched this order? If your socks are big enough, you probably could put them on over your shoes, but that would be weird.

Absolutely weird. Why? Because there is an order to putting on your socks and shoes.

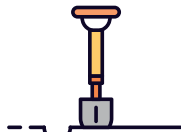
Number these pictures in the correct order:



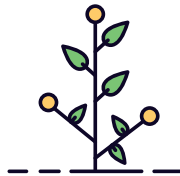
WATER



SPROUT



DIG



PLANT



SEEDS



SUNLIGHT



In the same way, there is a correct order for getting baptized in water. Baptism is part of a spiritual process, but it's not the first thing we do.

DISCUSS

What do you think is the most important thing someone needs to do before they are baptized in water?

STEP ONE

Step One

To get started, grab your Bible, look up these verses, and read them out loud together.



Acts 8:12

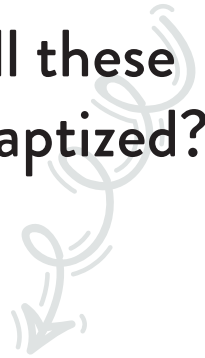


Acts 18:8



Acts 19:4-5

So, why were all these people getting baptized?

A large, light gray rounded rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for a handwritten response to the question.

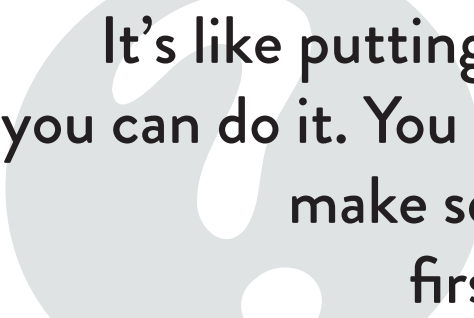


These people had heard the story about who Jesus is, what He had done, and they believed in Him.

They chose to ask God to forgive their sins, and to follow Jesus and obey what He said. Then they were baptized in water.

Making a decision to follow Jesus is step number one. It's the most important thing we will ever do. We get baptized in water, because that's what the Bible teaches us to do **AFTER** we have made a decision to follow Jesus.

Knowing this, does it make sense to be baptized in water **BEFORE** we choose Jesus? **NO!**



It's like putting on socks over your shoes. Sure, you can do it. You can be baptized, but it doesn't really make sense. So, let's look at this first step a little closer.

NAMES

NAMES

When you're around church and Christians, you may hear a lot of phrases like "following Jesus."

Circle the words or phrases you've heard before:

following Jesus

making Jesus Lord of your life

becoming a Christian

becoming a disciple

being a believer

getting saved

asking Jesus into your heart

making Jesus your forever friend

That's a lot of different ways to describe a Christian;
someone who believes in Jesus.

Becoming a Christian is the first step toward
water baptism.

You may or may not already be a Christian.

Let's explore what the Bible says about *why* and
how someone becomes a Christian.



DISCUSS

If someone asked *why* they needed to
follow Jesus, what would you say?
If someone asked you *how* to become a
Christian, what would you say?



The ABCs of Becoming a Christian

ADMIT: Admit that you're a sinner.

Romans 3:23

For _____ has _____; we all fall short of
_____ glorious _____.

ADMIT: Admit that you're a sinner.

We all make mistakes—we write the wrong answer on a test or forget to put a dirty towel in the laundry. Every one of us has and will continue to make mistakes. Making a mistake on a test isn't the same as sin. Sometimes we do what we want to do, even when we know it is wrong. That is sin. The first step is to admit—tell God—that we are sinners. You can't be forgiven of your sins if you don't admit that you are a sinner first.

BELIEVE: Believe that Jesus is God's Son.

John 3:16

“For this is how God _____ the _____: He _____ his one and only _____, so that _____ who _____ in him will not _____ but have _____ life.”

John 14:6

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

BELIEVE: Believe that Jesus is God's Son.

We have to believe Jesus is who He says He is. Jesus said that He is the Son of God. Jesus told us that He is the only way to God. He also said that only God can forgive our sins. Do you believe this? First, we have to know and admit that we are sinners with a sin problem. Then we have to believe that Jesus is the answer to that problem, the Savior of sinners like us.

CONFESS: Confess that Jesus is Lord.

Romans 10:9–10

If you openly _____ that _____ is _____ and believe in your _____ that God raised him from the dead, you will be _____. For it is by believing in your heart that you are _____ with God, and it is by openly _____ your faith that you are _____.

CONFESS: Confess that Jesus is Lord.

This one is a little tricky. It has two big words. “Confess” here means to say or declare faith in. So, we are to say that we believe Jesus is Lord. Wait a second, what does the word Lord mean? That word probably isn’t used in your normal, everyday talk. “Lord” basically means someone who is in charge, like a king.

So, let’s break this last one down. To confess is to say that we believe Jesus is in charge. What is He in charge of? He is in charge of our life. This is a big deal! It’s not a secret that Jesus is our Lord. No, we are telling other people that we have asked Jesus to be in charge of our life. This is really important!

Who makes mistakes (sins)?



Who is Jesus?



Who is in charge of a Christian's life?



DISCUSS

How do we know that God loves us?

What did Jesus do for us?

Why do you want to follow Jesus?

If Jesus is your Lord, what do
your actions look like?



Read these verses and answer the following questions:

Matthew 3:16–17

Who was baptized in these verses?

Matthew 28:19–20

Who did Jesus say should be baptized?

Why do we get baptized in water?

Jesus was baptized in water (Matthew 3:13–17.)

His life is worth following, so we follow His example in baptism too.

Jesus told us to be baptized (Matthew 28:19–20). One of the very last things Jesus told His disciples was to go and tell others about Him, and then baptize in water those who decided to follow Him.

The first disciples did as Jesus commanded. Their disciples did the same. This happened over and over and over and over until finally we heard the good news about Jesus. Now that we believe in Jesus, it's time for us to be baptized. So, you being baptized is following a command that Jesus gave you.

What Baptism is NOT:

Baptism is NOT something you do to get to heaven. Some people think it is. Remember, water baptism is something you do because you have chosen to follow and obey Jesus.

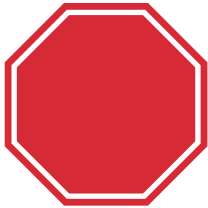
Water baptism does NOT wash away your sin. There is no special soap in the water to take away your sins. Some people think that if they just get baptized, it will wash away their sin and they won't do bad things anymore.

BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL

What's a *symbol*?

SYMBOL Symbol SYMBOL

Connect the symbol to what it stands for:



JESUS



WARNING



MARRIAGE



STOP

A symbol is a picture or object that represents something else.

So, that leads to the next big question.
If baptism is a symbol, what does it represent?

Romans 6:3-5

Or have you _____ that when we were _____ with _____ in baptism, we joined him in his _____? For we _____ and were _____ with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was _____ from the dead by the glorious _____ of the _____, now we also may _____ new _____. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be _____ to life as he was.



Baptism is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus and your decision to follow Him.

Baptism is the outward sign of an inward change.

TESTIMONY
Testimony
TESTIMONY

Spend time together discussing and answering the following questions. When you finish, you will have written your testimony. This testimony is the story of how you became a Christian.

How were you like everyone else before you chose to make Jesus the Lord of your life?

When did you first learn about Jesus? How did you react?

Why did you finally decide to believe in Jesus
and make Him the Lord of your life?



How is your life different now?
What has changed?



I AM READY!
I Am Ready!
I AM READY!



ADMIT: I admit that I am a sinner.



BELIEVE: I believe that Jesus is God's Son.



CONFESS: I confess that Jesus is Lord.



READY: I am ready to be baptized!

NAME:

