SALVATION & BAPTISM

A simple conversation guide for parents and kids

Both are important, but they are not the same thing. Start with Jesus, not a ceremony.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

SALVATION

Salvation is God rescuing us from sin through Jesus. We receive His gift by grace through faith, trusting Jesus as Savior and choosing to follow Him. We cannot earn it by being good or by getting baptized. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward picture of an inward decision to follow Jesus. Going under and coming up from the water points to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection and to our new life in Him. It celebrates faith; it does not create salvation. (Romans 6:3–4)

SALVATION = TRUSTING JESUS • BAPTISM = SHOWING OTHERS

THE ROMANS ROAD

Read the passages together in your Bible. These are kid-friendly summaries, not direct Bible quotations.

ROMANS 3:23	Everyone sins. All of us need God's forgiveness.
ROMANS 6:23	Sin leads to death, but God offers eternal life through Jesus.
ROMANS 5:8	God loves us so much that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.
ROMANS 10:9–10	We respond by believing Jesus rose again and openly acknowledging Him as Lord.
ROMANS 10:13	Everyone who calls on the Lord for salvation can be saved.

TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD

Keep the conversation warm and unhurried. Children do not need to know every answer before they can begin asking sincere questions about Jesus.

ASK, THEN LISTEN

- Who is Jesus, and what did He do for us?
- What do you think sin means?
- Why do you think we need forgiveness?
- What does it mean to trust and follow Jesus?
- What do you think baptism shows other people?

SIMPLE WORDS YOU CAN USE

"God loves you. We all make wrong choices and need forgiveness. Jesus died and rose again to rescue us from sin. When we trust Him, He forgives us and gives us new life. Baptism is a way to show others that we have chosen to follow Jesus."

A PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

"Jesus, thank You for loving me. I know I sin and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died and rose again. I want to trust You and follow You. Help me grow closer to You. Amen."

FOR FAMILIES WITH A CATHOLIC BACKGROUND

Christian traditions understand baptism differently. At Life Church, we teach baptism after a person makes their own decision to follow Jesus. If your child was baptized as a baby, you can talk with a Kid Life leader about what baptism means here. Questions are welcome.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Let your child set the pace. Some children may be ready to ask big questions about Jesus, while others need more time. Welcome their curiosity and listen when they bring it up. There is no need to rush a prayer, decision, or baptism. Our hope is for each child to respond to Jesus with understanding and genuine faith, not because they feel pressured or guilty. We would love to walk alongside your family as these conversations unfold.