

Water Baptism

For 2nd – 5th Graders

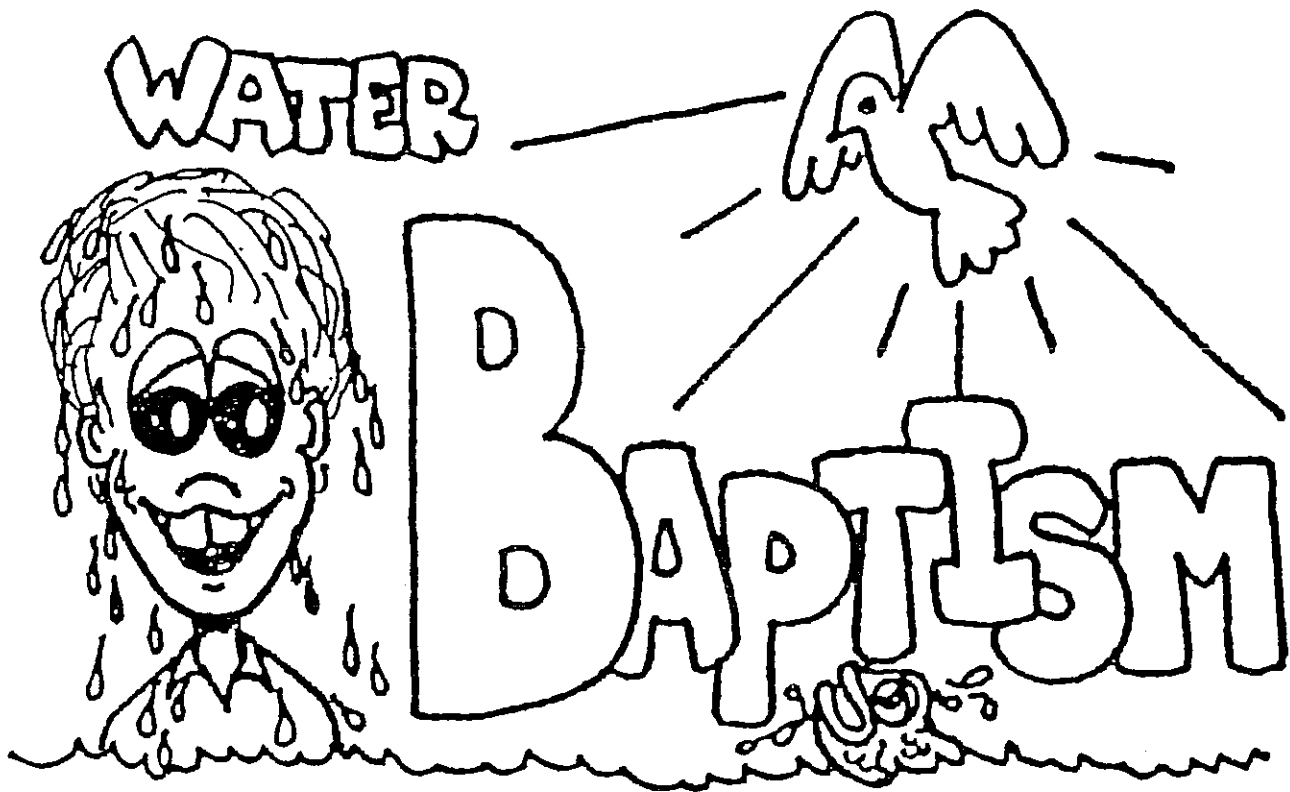
(7 – 10 Year Olds)

Following is information for parents to use with their 2nd – 5th Grade student to answer their questions and help them better understand baptism. You will find a Parent's Guide and a Student Guide. Feel free to print these out for your personal use.

Duplication of this material is permissible if not for monetary gain



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A BOOK FOR YOUR
FOREVER BY Dick RUBER

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Parent's Guide

Produced By:
Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade

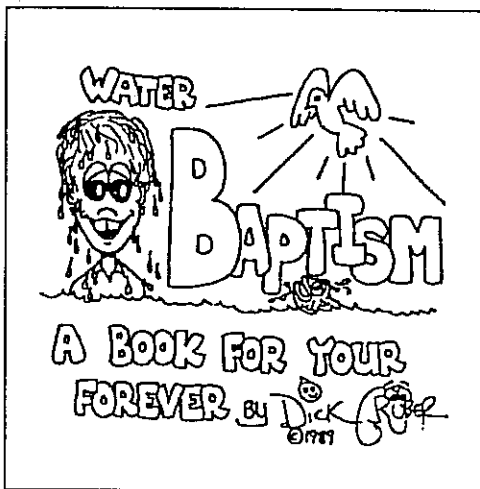


1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Water Baptism

a book for your forever

Hey teacher! You have a wonderful opportunity. You can help boys and girls understand the ordinance of the church, water baptism. Children across this country are coming to know Christ. Many have known Christ since they were small. A great number of these children have never followed the Lord in water baptism. Some have never received a teaching on this ordinance.



In the book, *Tell Somebody!*, I shared some ideas on how you could teach boys and girls to witness. In *Start Here!*, I gave you pictures and ideas that help new Christians begin the walk of faith. I stated, "It is so important that boys and girls who come to Christ get started off on the right foot."

This booklet, *Water Baptism*, will help you and the child understand the importance of this symbol of our commitment to Christ. Use this in

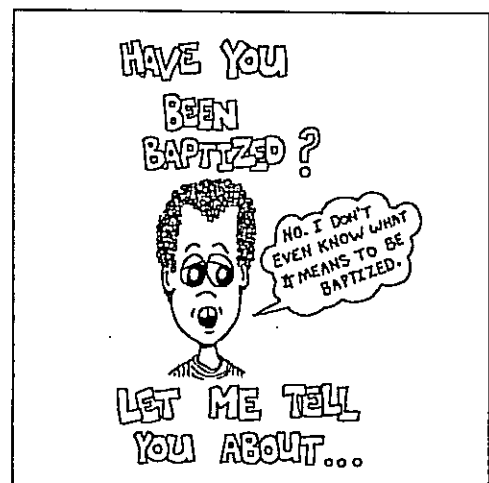
Sunday School, children's church, or a special class for those who desire to follow the Lord through water baptism.

The artwork provided can be reproduced for the overhead projector, as booklets for each child, or any way you deem necessary in teaching the children. Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the doctrinal course, *Foundations For Faith*, available from Gospel Publishing House, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802.

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED?

(Ask the children for a show of hands.)

How many of you have been baptized? What do you remember about this experience? Many times, a boy and girl becomes Christian, but never

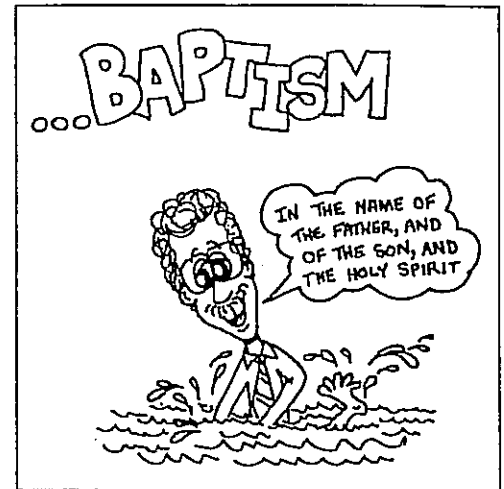


understands the importance of water baptism. In this class, we will learn what water baptism is and why it is important to be baptized.

WATER BAPTISM

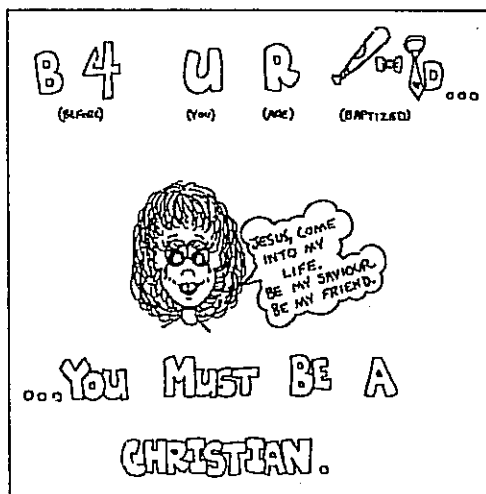
Water baptism is one of the two ordinances observed by evangelical churches. (The other is communion). It is an important ordinance, but one which often does not receive the attention it should. Water baptism is vital to those who desire to be completely obedient to Christ.

What is an ordinance? It is a law of worship commanded by Christ. We desire to be baptized in water because Jesus commanded that we do this. Water baptism is not something we do because friends are doing it or because it looks kind of fun. We are baptized out of love and obedience to Jesus.



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

BEFORE YOU ARE BAPTIZED YOU MUST BE A CHRISTIAN



In Jesus' day, water baptism was a common practice. It always signaled a turning point in the person's life. It was a sign of a change of heart, cleansing, of turning from one way of life to a new way of living.

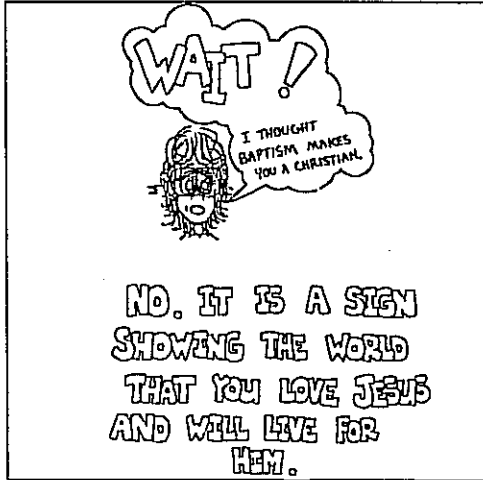
John baptized many people at the Jordan River. He encouraged people to repent, that is, turn from evil to do good. Jesus was baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” (Matthew 3:14, NIV). Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness. Then John consented” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. “At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him” (Matthew 3:16, NIV).

Baptism is a sign to the world that you have made a decision. Before being bap-

tized you must make a decision to accept and live for Jesus. Jesus makes us new from the inside out. He changes our hearts and lives. Getting baptized is a great way to show everybody that this change has happened in your life.

WAIT! I THOUGHT BAPTISM MAKES YOU A CHRISTIAN

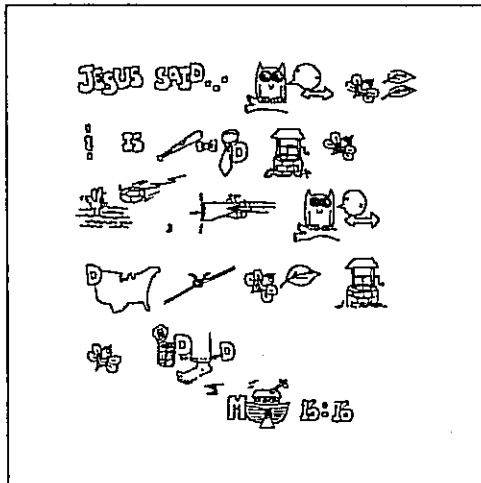
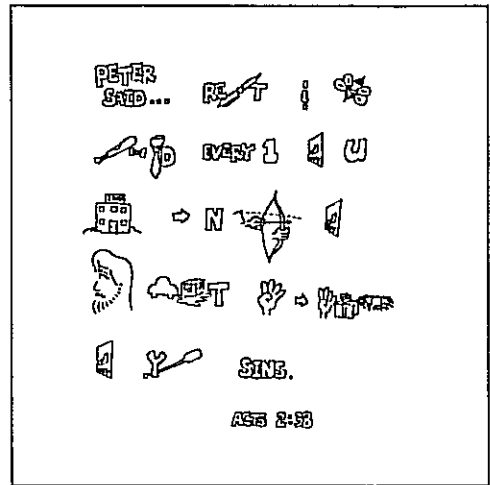


Baptism does not make you a Christian. Believing on the Lord Jesus makes you a Christian. If you have accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are a Christian. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward experience. We believe that water baptism is a testimony of obedience and faith.

PETER SAID...

Peter replied, "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, NIV).

Repentance should always come before a person is baptized. *(Study this scripture or use it as support in your teaching.)*



JESUS SAID...

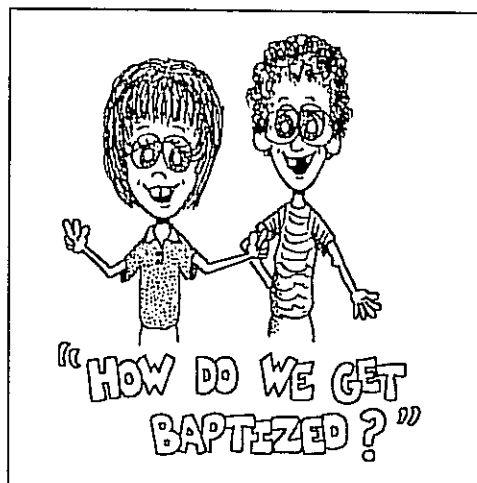
"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16, NIV).

The requirement for water baptism is believing in Jesus. Baptism does not save you, make you a Christian, or guarantee you a home in heaven. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven. Baptism is a sign that you have become a

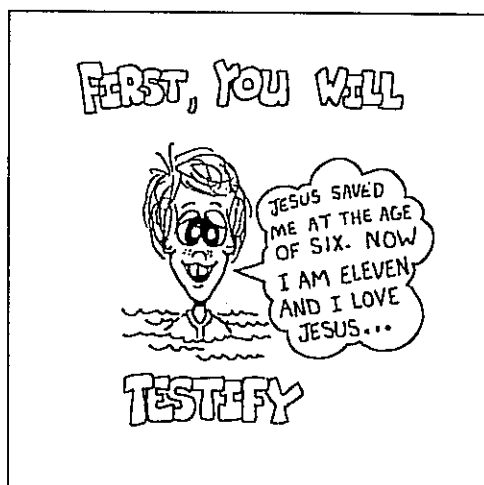
Christian. *(Help children memorize this verse.)*

HOW DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

(This is a very natural question for boys and girls. Children are often afraid of the unknown.) We will now talk about what actually happens to you when you are baptized. Fully explaining the process of water baptism will ease any fears or doubts about this ordinance.



FIRST, YOU WILL TESTIFY



Public water baptism makes our salvation experience seem more real and solid. When you are baptized, the pastor will ask you to give a short testimony. You may tell how you were saved, praise God for his goodness, or proclaim your intent to live for Jesus.

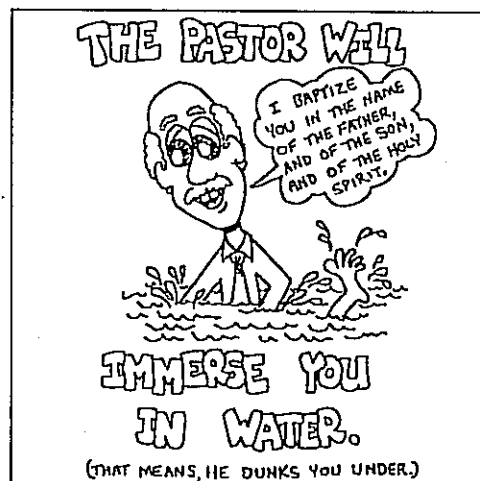
Testifying, or telling the church about your commitment to live for Jesus is an important step in your Christian walk. Write down your testimony before the baptism service. Talk about it with your parents, teachers, and the pastor. It sometimes helps to practice what you will say.

THE PASTOR WILL IMMERSE YOU IN WATER

The word baptism literally means to dip or immerse. Immerse means to be placed completely under water. A person who is baptized is completely submersed, or dunked, in water.

John baptized in Aenon because there was much water there. The Ethiopian eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" (Acts 8:36., NIV).

The pastor will say something like this. "Because of your testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, and your desire to obey his command, I



baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” As he says this he will immerse you in the water and pull you up out of it again.

Water baptism is a picture of identification with Christ in His life, death, and resurrection. Going under the water represents the death of our sinful life and Jesus’ death on the cross. Raising up out of the water represents our new life, a symbol of Christ’s resurrection.

Paul wrote this to the Romans. “Should we go on sinning so that grace any increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life, If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:2-11, NIV).

BAPTISM IS ONLY THE START

Getting baptized does not mean you have arrived. It is not a magical act which makes you unable to sin. It is a choice to publicly proclaim your allegiance to Christ. Now you must read your Bible, pray every day, attend church services, and find your place of ministry in the church.



Water Baptism Quiz

- The reason we should desire to be baptized in water is:
 - Because Jesus commanded that we do this.
 - Because we love Jesus and want to obey Him.
 - Because it is an important ordinance of the church.
 - All of the above are correct.
- Before I can be baptized in water I must:
 - Take swimming lessons.
 - Have attended church at least 2 years.
 - Be a Christian.
 - Know the books of the Bible and the Ten Commandments by heart.
- Being baptized is a _____ to the _____ that you have become a _____.
- True False Being baptized in water will not make you a Christian.
- True False Being baptized in water will guarantee you a home in heaven.
- True False Public water baptism makes your salvation experience seem more real and solid.
- When you are baptized the pastor will ask you to give a short testimony. What do you think you will say?

- When you are baptized, the pastor immerses you in water. This means:
 - He dunks you under.
 - Completely submerses you in water.
 - Places you completely under water.
 - All of the above.
- As the pastor baptizes you he will say something like, "Because of your testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and your desire to obey His command, I baptize you in the _____ of the _____, and of the _____ and of the _____."
- Getting _____ is just a start. We should _____ our Bible, _____ every day, attend _____ faithfully, and find our place of _____ in the church. This is how we _____ spiritually.
- The reason I want to be baptized is:

Water Baptism Quiz

1. The reason we should desire to be baptized in water is:
A. ~~Because Jesus commanded that we do this.~~
B. ~~Because we love Jesus and want to obey Him.~~
C. ~~Because it is an important ordinance of the church.~~
D. **All of the above are correct.**
2. Before I can be baptized in water I must:
A. ~~Take swimming lessons.~~
B. ~~Have attended church at least 2 years.~~
C. **Be a Christian.**
D. ~~Know the books of the Bible and the Ten Commandments by heart.~~
3. Being baptized is a _____ sign _____ to the _____ world _____ that you have become a _____ **Christian** _____.
4. **True** ~~False~~ Being baptized in water will not make you a Christian.
5. ~~True~~ **False** Being baptized in water will guarantee you a home in heaven.
6. **True** ~~False~~ Public water baptism makes your salvation experience seem more real and solid.
7. When you are baptized the pastor will ask you to give a short testimony. What do you think you will say?

8. When you are baptized, the pastor immerses you in water. This means:
A. ~~He dunks you under.~~
B. ~~Completely submerses you in water.~~
C. ~~Places you completely under water.~~
D. **All of the above.**
9. As the pastor baptizes you he will say something like, "Because of your testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and your desire to obey His command, I baptize you in the _____ name of the _____ Father and of the _____ Son and of the _____ Holy _____ Spirit _____."
10. Getting baptized is just a start. We should read our Bible, pray every day, attend church faithfully, and find our place of ministry in the church. This is how we grow spiritually..
11. The reason I want to be baptized is:

Child's Application for Water Baptism

Child's First Name: _____

Child's Middle Name: _____

Child's Last Name: _____

Phone: _____

Birthday: (mm/dd/yy) _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I know Jesus Christ as my Savior, have read the booklet, *Water Baptism, A book for your forever*, and understand what it means to be baptized.

Child's Name

Date

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

Baptism, it is a time of special meaning to each individual being baptized as well as for the Oakwood Church Family or Community Group and special guests who share this time of joy. We sincerely desire to help make this baptismal service a special, memorable spiritual experience. Sometimes tenseness and fear of the unknown can detract from this time of unique response to the Lord and so we share these things with you in an attempt to help you know exactly what we will be doing as well as some helpful ideas regarding your baptism.

WHERE DO WE CONDUCT BAPTISMS?

In short, like John the Baptist (Acts 3:23) we conduct baptisms wherever there is plenty of water to do so! That includes the ocean, a lake, a swimming pool, and in the winter, even a hot tub!

HOW DO I SCHEDULE A BAPTISMAL?

You may contact the Oakwood office and indicate your interest at office@oakwood.com or 813/969-2303. Or you may directly ask an elder, pastor, or Community Group Leader. They in turn will request you to read this information, and review with you how a person obtains eternal life, and the meaning of baptism. They will then make arrangements with you for scheduling the joyful ceremony of baptism.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

Oakwood allows believing parents to determine if their child is a genuine believer in Jesus and is old enough to grasp the truths of the gospel and the basic meaning of baptism. If you are unsure how to do this, a pastor, elder, or Community Group Leader will be delighted to assist you. We have materials to teach baptism at three levels: children (ages 7-10), youth (ages 11-16), and adult.

Each child varies in spiritual and developmental maturity, but we encourage parents to guide their children to wait to be baptized until they are at least seven years old; it is common and healthy for some to wait until they are older. We want to encourage young children to grow in faith, yet we don't want to rush them into it until they are able to grasp it's meaning for them and they are sure it is their faith and not merely the faith of their parents who desire this for them.

DRESS FOR THE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Women: Wear shorts or slacks along with a dark top and normal undergarments. In the case of the baptismal service being held in conjunction with a beach or pool gathering, a swimsuit with cover-up would be appropriate.

Men: Wear shorts or a conservative swim suit and T-shirt.

Children (both boys & girls): You may wear what the adults wear, or a swim suit and a shirt or T-shirt.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

1. A complete change of clothing (if needed)
2. A comb, and a hair dryer (if needed)
3. A towel!

PREPARATION TO MAKE

1. Consider being prepared to share a brief testimony of your trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin. If this is something that would make you exceptionally uncomfortable you are not required to do this (this is particularly true for children). If you wish, the one baptizing you can briefly share on your behalf. It is, however, suggested for three reasons: 1) It will be an encouragement to

those who observe, 2) It can be a means of strengthening your faith, 3) The baptism might be more meaningful to you.

2. Select a verse or short passage of Scripture which was instrumental in your coming to Christ, or which is especially meaningful to you now as you anticipate being baptized, or which you have chosen as a life verse, etc. Please tell the one baptizing you what it is in advance of the day of baptism and why.
3. Prayerfully consider who to especially invite to your baptism such as unsaved friends or relatives, and those to whom your baptism would be especially meaningful.
4. Pray that your baptism will glorify God and that it will be a meaningful event for you and the congregation.

BAPTISMAL QUESTION (while in water, prior to immersion)

Question to adults:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin and acknowledge Him as the Lord and Master of your life? **(YES)**

Question to children:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin? **(YES)**

Do you want to try to live a life that is pleasing to Jesus? **(YES)**

Response of person performing the baptism:

Based upon the confession of your faith, and in loving obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

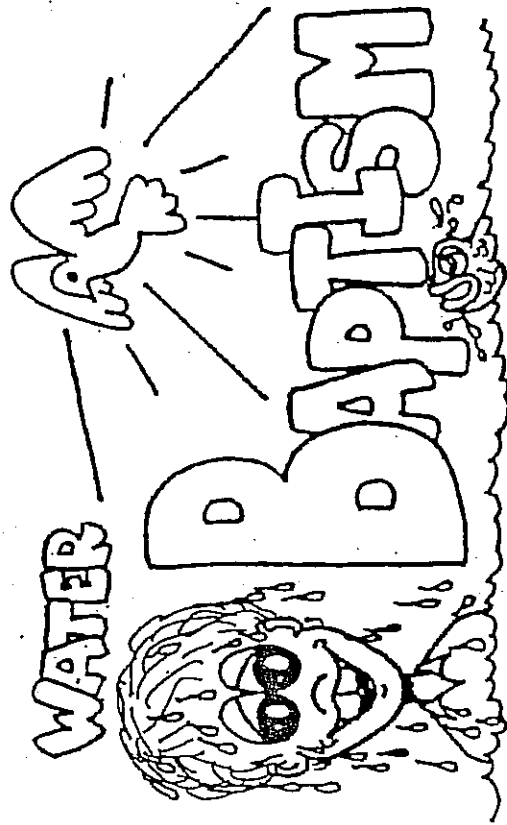
You are then immersed with the assistance of the baptizer and brought back up out of the water. This concludes your baptism.

WHO MAY BAPTISE?

Believer's baptism is one of the two ordinances commanded by Christ; the other one is The Lord's Supper. They are to be administered only by His Church. His universal church is embodied in local congregations, including Oakwood. We do not believe it is appropriate for individual believers to officiate either of these ordinances apart from the local church, nor apart from the participation or authorization of the local church's spiritually designated pastors or elders or those whom they authorize to do so as a ministry of the local church.

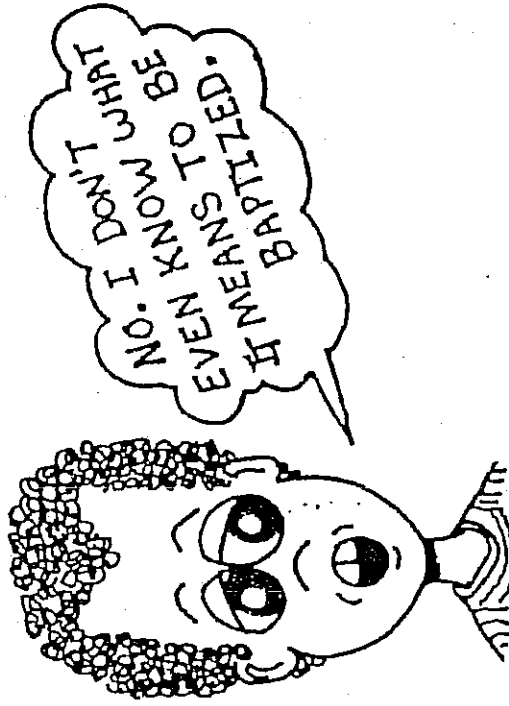
Oakwood's pastors and elder's often officiate and baptize. They also authorize others to officiate (lead) a baptismal ceremony, such as Community Group Leaders; when they do so, they are acting only as a part of the ministry of Oakwood and under Oakwood's pastors/elders oversight and authorization. Please ask for this authorization before proceeding. In turn, properly authorized leaders of a baptism ceremony may grant the joyful privilege to a believing parent, or to the person who was instrumental in leading that person to faith, to actually assist in immersing the one being baptized.

Student Guide
2nd - 5th Grade



A BOOK FOR YOUR
FOREVER BY Dick Gouff
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HAVE YOU
BEEN
BAPTIZED?



LET ME TELL
YOU ABOUT...

...BAPTISM

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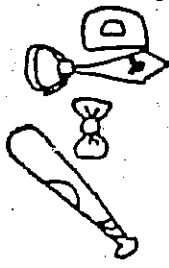
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IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER, AND
OF THE SON, AND
THE HOLY SPIRIT



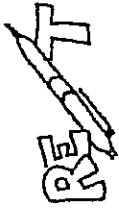
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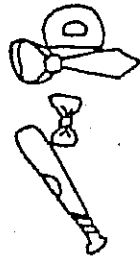


NO. IT IS A SIGN
 SHOWING THE WORLD
 THAT YOU LOVE JESUS
 AND WILL LIVE FOR
 HIM.

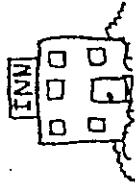
PETER
 SAID...



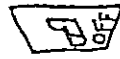
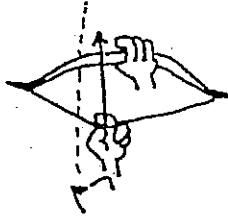
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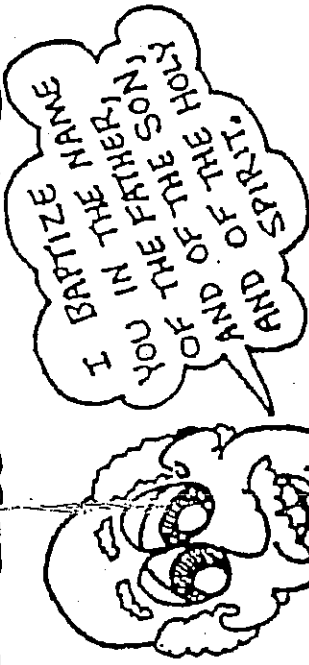
FIRST, YOU WILL



TESTIFY

8.

THE PASTOR WILL



**IMMERSE YOU
IN WATER.**

(THAT MEANS, HE DUNKS YOU UNDER.)

9.

