

How to Conduct a Baptism Service

Question 1: What are the main parts of a baptism service?

- Mark 1:4, 5, 7 – 13 And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River. And this was his message: After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but **he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit**.
At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert for forty days, **being tempted by Satan**.
- **Repentance** – Jesus built His baptism on John’s baptism of repentance.
- **Forgiveness** – Water – gives us the picture of washing – the forgiveness of sin.
- **Receiving the Holy Spirit** – this is what Jesus added to John’s baptism.
- **Preparation for Temptation** – we prepare the new believer for spiritual battle.

Question 2: What does your baptism service look like?

- **Song of Praise**
- **Scripture Reading**
- **Short Message**
- **The Questions before Baptism**
 - Leader (L) asks those who are going to be baptized: “Here in the presence of God and all these people, I ask you answer these questions honestly - Have you been taught the 7 Basic Beliefs of the Christian faith?”
 - Person to be Baptised (B): Yes
 - L: Do you understand and accept them as God’s truth?
 - B: Yes
 - L: Have you been taught the 4 Clear Commands of our Lord Jesus?”
 - B: Yes
 - Will you obey these commands?
 - B: With God’s help, I will.
 - L: Is Jesus Christ the Lord and Saviour of your life?
 - B: Yes
 - L: Will you follow Him all the days of your life?
 - B: With God’s help, I will.
 - L: Do you repent of all your sins and do you want to live a holy life?
 - B: Yes, I do.
 - L: Who will support this person on his journey of faith?
 - His foot washing group should reply: We will!
- **The Apostles’ Creed**
 - L: Let us all confess our faith together with the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there, He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

- **The Baptism**

- L: Lord, please take this ordinary water and work a miracle in _____'s (name) life. Wash him from all his sin and fill him with your Holy Spirit.
- L: _____(name) – because you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son – our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- Water is then sprinkled on the person's head or the person is immersed in water.
- L: _____ (name) – receive the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for Faithfulness

- L: Lord please help _____(name) to be your faithful disciple all the days of his life. After your baptism, the Holy Spirit led You into the desert for prayer and even there you were tempted by the devil. Whenever we try to draw near to You, the evil one will try and distract us from You. Please deliver him from the evil one and help him to overcome all temptations. We ask this in Jesus' Name – Amen!