

Baptism Orientation

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:18-20

SALVATION

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

—Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

—Romans 5:8

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

—Romans 10:9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9

DECIDE > COMMIT > FOLLOW

BAPTISM

Why should I be baptized?

- To follow the example set by Christ.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.

—Mark 1:9

- Because Christ commands it.

Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."

—Matthew 28:19-20

- It demonstrates that I really am a Christ-follower.

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

—1 John 2:3

What does baptism really mean?

- It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

—Colossians 2:12

- It illustrates my new life as a Christ-follower.

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand-new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!

—2 Corinthians 5:17

- Baptism doesn't make you a believer, it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring, it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...

—Acts 2:41

DECLARE > CELEBRATE > FAMILY

Baptism Basics

How do I register for Baptism?

- Attend a Baptism Orientation.
- Complete the registration card handed out at Orientation indicating your intent to be baptized.
- We want to hear everyone's testimony—your special story of how you met and decided to follow Jesus and what your life is like now. There are two ways you can turn in your testimony to us (Please do this within two days of your Orientation.):
 - Bring your testimony to Guest Services at the campus you attend.
 - Email your testimony to: baptism@grangerchurch.com.

What do I wear?

- A Baptism shirt will be provided the day of your baptism. Plan to arrive early to allow time to change. (Note: We will be selling baptism shirts one and two weeks prior to baptism...you do NOT need to purchase one because we will have one for you on the day you are baptized.)
- Bring a towel or two. You may want one towel available for you in the auditorium immediately after your baptism and another towel to use during changing.
- Changing areas will be provided after your baptism.

What is the schedule?

- Check in at the designated Baptism check-in area when you arrive at church and go change into your shirt.
- Put on your name tag high on your right shoulder.
- Check your bag with your change of clothes and towels.
- Be sure to keep one towel with you.
- Attend the service. You will be instructed during service when it is time to line up.
- Attendants will be available in the auditorium to guide you to a pool and escort you to the changing areas.

WHO IS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

A disciple is a person with a wholehearted devotion to listen to and obey God.

Following Jesus

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

—Matthew 4:19

Being changed by Jesus

...our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

—2 Corinthians 3:18

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22-23

Committed to the mission of Jesus

*Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**'"*

—Matthew 22:37-39

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

—Matthew 28:18-20

Committed to live in community with other disciples

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:42-47

Testimony Outline

How to write your “Story of Faith”

The Gospels are full of encounters between Jesus and other people, many of whom became His followers. They represent a great variety of personalities from many different backgrounds. The one thing they all have in common is that Jesus changed their lives.

One of the most dramatic incidents that illustrates this fact is the meeting between Jesus and the man from Gerasa who had demons in him (see *Luke 8:26-39*). When he was healed, he wanted to join the wandering band of disciples. Instead, he was told to, “*Go back home and tell what God has done for you,*” (v.39). He obeyed and became a powerful witness for Jesus throughout the town.

Our stories really do matter to Jesus. He wants us to understand our story so that we can bring God glory. When we know our stories with clarity and confidence, we honor what God has done in our lives. “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*” (1 Peter 3:15)

Some may have a dramatic “before I met Jesus” story and some may not, but regardless, there’s tremendous value in all of our stories. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)* Literally, we were spiritually dead and now we are spiritually alive in Christ.

What was your life like before you met Jesus?

What did God use to get your attention?

How did you respond to Jesus?

Where are you now in your relationship with Jesus?

Name: _____

To offer your testimony, **write your story using between 100-200 words. Summarize how you came to know Christ as your Savior and describe the present condition of your spiritual life.** Spend the LEAST amount of time on the first question, progressing incrementally to end, and spend the MOST of your time on the last question. The following is a suggested outline for writing your story:

What was your life like before you met Jesus?

What did God use to get your attention?

How did you respond to Jesus?

Where are you now in your relationship with Jesus?

If you are unable to complete your testimony outline during baptism orientation, please return your neatly-written 100-200 word testimony to Guest Services at your campus within two days. Please sign and date your testimony or email your testimony to baptism@grangerchurch.com.