



FAMILY framework



FAITH COMMITMENT & BAPTISM (K-5th grade)
Prepares parents for a conversation about faith and baptism when their child is spiritually ready.




FAITH COMMITMENT

PARENT GUIDE



grow





The Roman Road to salvation is a collection of verses from the book of Romans explaining God's free gift of eternal life. Follow these verses to learn why we need salvation, God's plan of salvation, how to receive salvation, God's promise of eternal life, and the results of salvation.



GOD IS THE CREATOR OF LIFE

ROMANS 1:20-21: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." God reveals himself to us - His divine nature and personal qualities - through creation. We must acknowledge God as the Creator and sustainer of life.



WHY WE NEED SALVATION : THE FACT OF OUR SIN

ROMANS 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We must recognize that we are sinners and that we do not meet God's perfect standards. Sin is serious in God's sight and includes thoughts, words and actions. All sin (i.e. hatred and lust) makes us sinners not just the big, obvious sins like murder and adultery (Romans 5:12).



MAN'S INABILITY

ROMANS 3:10: "As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one." No one can earn right standing with God. We must understand that our good deeds or religion are unacceptable to God because our good works cannot cancel out our sin.



THE PENALTY OF SIN

ROMANS 6:23A "For the wages of sin is death." God's holiness demands a penalty (consequence) for our sin, which is death. Eternal death is separation from God forever in Hell. God is a just God, and He demands punishment for every sin. Justice is getting what we deserve, and because of our sin, we deserve death.



GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

ROMANS 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God sent His Son Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross. God is a God of mercy and He sent Jesus to take our sin upon Himself and the punishment we deserve. Mercy means not getting what we deserve. We deserve death, and Jesus showed mercy by taking our place.

GOD'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

ROMANS 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eternal life is a free gift from God, there is nothing we can do to earn eternal life. Grace means getting what we don't deserve. Because of God's amazing grace, He has given us eternal life through Jesus Christ!

MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

ROMANS 10:9-10: "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." We must believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for us on the cross, rose from the dead, and is Lord. We must put our trust in Jesus alone to make us right with God. Salvation involves believing in our hearts (inward belief) and an outward confession that Jesus is Lord.

ROMANS 10:13: "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." There is no complicated formula to salvation; Jesus paid the price of our sin for us. Our response is to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. If we do, we will be saved from eternal death in Hell to eternal life in Heaven.



RESULTS OF SALVATION

ROMANS 8:1: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." By accepting Jesus' death as a payment for our sins, we will never be condemned for our sins.

ROMANS 5:1: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Peace with God means we have been reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ. We can now have a relationship with the living God because sin no longer separates us from Him.

The Roman's road can be difficult to explain to a child, so we have included an activity in your child's booklet to help explain it on their level.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED? AND WHY DO I NEED TO BE SAVED?

1. The Bible tells us about the good news of salvation. Another word that we use that means good news is **GOSPEL**.

I CORINTHIANS 15:1, 3: BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF THE GOOD NEWS I PREACHED TO YOU. YOU RECEIVED IT AND HAVE PUT YOUR FAITH IN IT. BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED THE GOOD NEWS, YOU ARE SAVED... HERE IS WHAT IT IS. CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS, JUST AS SCRIPTURE SAID HE WOULD.

2. We learn in the Bible that God wants a close relationship with the people he created, but we are separated from God because of our **SINS**.

ROMANS 3:23: FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

3. The Bible also makes it clear that our **PENALTY** for sin is eternal separation from God or spiritual death.

ROMANS 6:23A: FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.

4. But there is good news. God loves us so much that he sent his one and only **SON** to die in our place and take the punishment for our sins.

ROMANS 5:8: BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

5. The Bible tells us that if we want to be saved from our sin, then we must **CONFESS** with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our **HEART** that God raised him from the dead.

ROMANS 10:9-10: THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH, "JESUS IS LORD," AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED. FOR IT IS WITH YOUR HEART THAT YOU BELIEVE AND ARE JUSTIFIED, AND IT IS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU CONFESS AND ARE SAVED.

6. If we pray and accept Jesus as our Lord, then we will live forever with God in **HEAVEN**.

JOHN 3:16: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT DIE BUT WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.



THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION



God is the creator of all things, and when God created everything he decided he wanted a special relationship with his prize creation, humans. God created us in His own image to be His friend and to experience a full life assured of His love. But He didn't make us robots—He gave us the freedom to choose.

Man

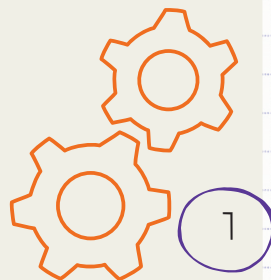


God



JOHN 10:10
GEN. 1:27

Mankind has chosen to disobey God and thus become separated from Him. This separation means the penalty of an eternal spiritual death.





Man

SIN ROMANS 3:23
DEATH ROMANS 6:23
JUDGMENT HEBREWS 9:27

God

JOHN 10:10
GEN. 1:27

On our own, we cannot attain the perfection needed to bridge the gap between mankind and God. Christ's death alone paid for our sin and bridges the gulf between God and man.

Man

SIN ROMANS 3:23
DEATH ROMANS 6:23
JUDGMENT HEBREWS 9:27

CHRIST

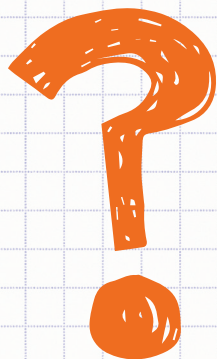
1 PETER 3:18
ROMANS 5:8

God

JOHN 10:10
GEN. 1:27

So our response to this good news is to simply believe. Believing means trust and commitment – acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness, and letting Him control our life. Eternal life is a gift for us to receive and Jesus' death on the cross is the bridge for us to get to Heaven.





RECEIVING SALVATION THROUGH
JESUS IS AS EASY AS ABC

A Admit you are a sinner (Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned..."

B Believe that Jesus is God's son and the only way to God
(John 3:16)

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE
FATHER BUT THROUGH ME. JOHN 14:6

C Confess that Jesus is Lord (the one in control of your life)
(Romans 10:9-10)

If you are ready to say a prayer to receive God's free gift of salvation,
pray something like this:

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU THAT YOU LOVE ME AND YOU MADE ME.
I ADMIT THAT I AM A SINNER, AND I THANK YOU THAT YOU SENT
JESUS TO DIE FOR ME. COME INTO MY LIFE, BE MY SAVIOR, AND
MAKE ME THE PERSON YOU WANT ME TO BE. THANK YOU FOR
FORGIVING ME. THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME ETERNAL LIFE. I LOVE
YOU. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

WHY DO WE PRACTICE BAPTISM AT NORTHVIEW?

1. Jesus was baptized.

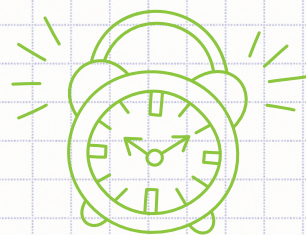
MATTHEW 3:16-17 "AS SOON AS JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, HE WENT UP OUT OF THE WATER. AT THAT MOMENT HEAVEN WAS OPENED, AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE AND ALIGHTING ON HIM. AND A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAID, "THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASED."

2. Once we have made a decision to ask Christ to forgive our sins and follow after Him, we are called to be baptized just like Jesus.

MARK 16: 15-16 HE SAID TO THEM, "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION. WHOEVER BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED, BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE WILL BE CONDEMNED."

3. What is Baptism? - Baptism is the outward expression of our faith. It does not save you; it is when we openly declare our decision to follow after Christ to others.

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR BAPTISM?



How do I know when my child is ready for water baptism? This is a common question among parents, and it's a valid one. The simplest way to know if your child is ready for water baptism is if their desire to be baptized is something they initiate. They shouldn't want it because we pushed them into it or because their friends are all doing it. It's a genuine desire accompanied by a head and heart knowledge of why they want to be baptized.

It is important that parents and the church regularly talk about water baptism with kids. They need to understand what water baptism is, why it's important, what it means and what happens. Often asking a kid why they want to be baptized will tell you a great deal about their readiness for the occasion.

We have to be careful to not push our kids to take this step. It's so easy to think for our kids or put words in their mouths when it comes to this decision. We want them to follow God in obedience. We want them to experience the joy of baptism. And we do it because we love them and want them to understand the importance of water baptism.

But there is a fine line that we have to walk to make sure it's something they want and they are ready for.

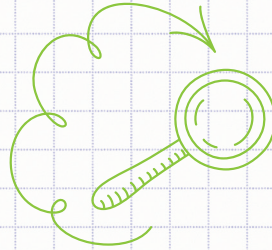
The bottom line is that it's important to be sure your child knows the implications of being baptized. And when they do, it will be a moment of obedience and celebration that they will look back on as a significant moment in their lives. We recommend kids be at least 8 years old before they are baptized.

If your child is ready and really understands what water baptism is and why they want to take this step, we congratulate you and your family on this momentous occasion in your child's life!





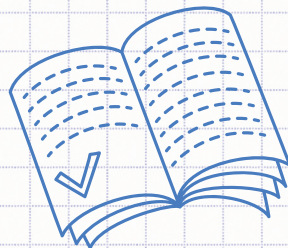
PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM SERVICE



1. The child being baptized and one parent will need to attend a mandatory class concerning baptism on _____. We recommend that one parent go into the baptismal with the child. Parents are, by far, the biggest influence in their child's spiritual growth, so having a parent help in their child's baptism is very significant and appropriate.
2. With the parents' help, the child needs to complete the BAPTISM section of this booklet, fill out an application form, write a short testimony on the sheet in the back of the booklet and bring them to the baptism class.

The testimony section doesn't have to be very long at all. Mom or Dad need to help the child put it in their own words. This will help them be able to articulate their testimony story if and when they are asked.

3. Invite friends and family to the baptism service. This is an important event in your child's life. And what better way to stand up for God than by having your friends and family there to celebrate with you?



WHY WATER BAPTISM?



Here's a fun way for you to look over and learn the important parts of water baptism. We will discover these truths by using the letters in the word B. A. P. T. I. S. M. So what you need to do is fill in the blanks with the scrambled words, read the verses that go with these and discuss them with a parent.

If you get stuck, there's a place where you can look up the answers on page 16. But that's **ONLY** if you get stuck. So let's get started.

Baptism cannot get you to _____ (NEVAEH).

We can only get to heaven by having a relationship with Jesus Christ. That means that having a belief and faith in Christ is what saves us – not water baptism.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *God saved you by his special favor when you believed.*

Romans 10:9-10 *That if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

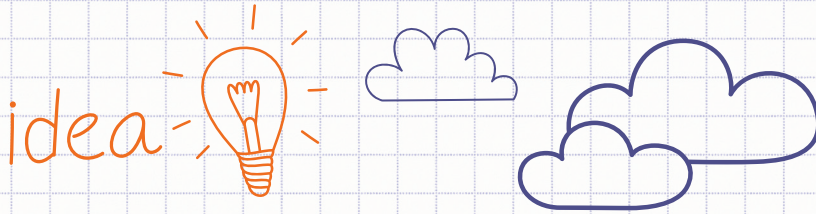
Act of _____ (INOBEDECE).

Baptism is a step of obedience that we need to do when we have a relationship with Christ. It's a "have to" if we really want to follow Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 2:38 talk about that. Look these verses up and talk about them with your parents.

Picture of Christ's _____ (THAED), _____ (LRBIAU) and resurrection.

Romans 6:4 *That's what the baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the death of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.*



Here's another cool verse about that:

Colossians 2:12 *When you are baptized, you are buried with Christ, and you are raised up with Him through your faith in God's power that was shown when He raised Christ from the dead.*

Those who _____ **(VELIBEE) in Christ.**

Did you know that only those who have asked Jesus into their heart and have a relationship with him need to be baptized? Having a relationship with Jesus comes first, then the step of baptism.

I _____ **(TFEISDENI) you with Christ.**

When you wear a baseball hat or your school's T-shirt, you are telling everyone that you are loyal to a team or belong to that school. Well, when you are baptized, you're telling everyone that you are identifying yourself with Jesus.

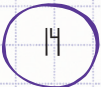
S _____ **(MYLOB) of belief.** Water baptism is a symbol of your belief in Christ. What do you think a symbol is? Look up the word symbol in the dictionary and write down its meaning here. _____

Look up **I Corinthians 15:3-4**. How is baptism a symbol of these two verses?

Must be under _____ **(EATWR).**

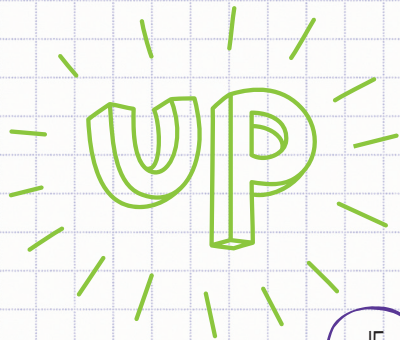
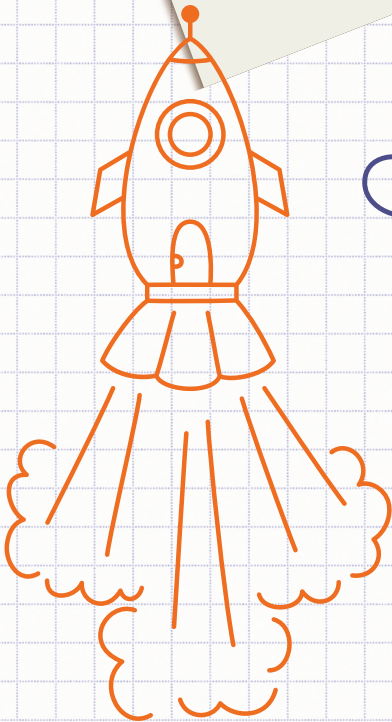
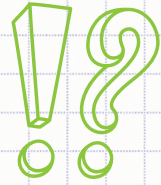
Did you know that the word baptize means "to dunk under water?" When you get baptized, you will be dunked under water and then quickly brought back up out of the water. This is the same way that Jesus was baptized.

Matthew 3:16a *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the* water.



IMPORTANT:

If you are not sure your child is ready after working through the booklet, tell them that you want them to WAIT to be baptized. There is no set time a person has to be baptized, so do not worry if your child is not ready. It's important to realize that Baptism is not what saves you. We know that God is the one that saves us and so it is by Him that we receive our salvation.





NOTES

Answer key for pages 13 - 14:

- Heaven
- Obedience
- Death
- Burial
- Believe
- Identifies
- Symbol
- Water

16

