

WATER BAPTISM



What is the Process?

Congratulations! Hyland Park Church celebrates your interest in baptism! Baptism is a significant step in your spiritual journey and we look forward to sharing this experience with you. If you would like to be baptized by Hyland Park Church, below is the process for scheduling and preparing for your baptism:

- 1. Read through the Baptism Study Guide**
- 2. Complete/Submit Baptism Request Form and Testimony**
- 3. Share your testimony with us**
- 4. Be baptized and let us celebrate with you!**

If you have any questions or concerns as you work through this process, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out! We look forward to celebrating your baptism with you!

Casey Emery
Hyland Park Church
479.409.5751

BAPTISM DAY INFORMATION

Arrival Time: Please arrive at 10:30am on the Sunday the celebration begins. Find a Guest Service Team Member when you arrive and they will give you instructions.

Clothing: Wear conservative clothing, i.e., bathing suit with shorts and t-shirt (no white and no dresses, please). Bring a towel, plastic bag for your wet clothes and some dry clothing.

Contact Person: If for any reason you cannot be there as scheduled for your baptism, please contact Casey Emery at 479.409.5751 and let him know ASAP.

BAPTISM GUIDE

People from Hyland Park Church come from various backgrounds. Some have never attended church regularly and some have a long history in a church. Some people at our church have experiences with churches with different points of view of baptism. This information should help you understand a biblical point of view whether you are new to the Christian faith or you are a Christian but have not been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior.

What baptism means and doesn't mean:

Baptism is a symbol of the salvation that has already taken place in your life! Water baptism serves as a public identification with Jesus...a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's connection to Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It signifies that the former way of life has been put to death and that we are now a new creation of God. Baptism is a spiritually significant union with the church community, uniting you with all believers through the ancient practice that has taken place for centuries in churches around the globe.

It is public announcement similar to an initiation ceremony, joining you with other followers of Jesus. The water of baptism does not save you, only faith in Jesus Christ saves, but those who are saved by Jesus are to be baptized. It is an outward sign that a person has entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what takes place inwardly at the time of salvation:

- **Acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**
- **Sharing in His death and resurrection.**
- **Being symbolically washed clean.**

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is also an act of obedience. It demonstrates submission to God. A good way to understand baptism is to look at a wedding ring. A wedding ring is worn by people who've committed their life in marriage to their mate. The ring doesn't make them married but shows a reality (their marriage) that has already taken place and so it is with baptism. It announces the reality of your salvation in Jesus Christ.

Who should be baptized?

All who have trusted Jesus Christ as their savior should be baptized. Baptism was given to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is an expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Essential Beliefs about the Person of Jesus:

1. Jesus is God.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. Jesus became a man.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:7 - but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men

3. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Essential Beliefs about the Work of Jesus:

1. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life.

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. Jesus died as a substitute for me.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

3. Jesus rose from the grave.

Romans 10:9 - if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:17 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

When should I be baptized?

One should be baptized as soon as possible after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Acts 8:35-38 - Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water: Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

Acts 2:41 - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Why should I be baptized?

1. Christ commanded it.

Matthew 28:19-20 - 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.

2. It follows Christ's example.

Mark 1:9-10 - At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized 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.

3. It is a public profession of your faith.

Acts 18:8 - Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

How is a person baptized?

The Greek word for baptism, baptizo, literally means to immerse or dunk, and this is the word used to describe Jesus Christ's own baptism by John the Baptist. Because Jesus modeled this act for us, we baptize by immersion. The bible gives us the normative method of baptism in the baptism of Jesus.

Matthew 3:16 - 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.

Colossians 2:12 - For when you were baptized you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do church members have to be baptized?

Since Jesus commands that all of his disciples be baptized, although not required, we encourage all members of Hyland Park Church to be baptized. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 1 Peter 3:21).

What about being baptized again?

Hyland Park Church encourages you be baptized if you have not been baptized by immersion after accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you have been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ but have struggled and are now renewing your commitment to Christ, you are welcome to be baptized again. Remember, this is a public display of your faith in Christ.

If you are seeking to rededicate your life to God the best action is to get connected in a Hyland Park Study Group and focus on growing your relationship with God through full involvement in the church community. If you are sensing that you need to rededicate your life to Christ, it is important that you tell someone about this choice so that someone can celebrate this decision with you and encourage you along the way. Please seek out your Hyland Park Study Group leader or other church leader to let them know how God is working in your life.

What about infant baptism?

While we celebrate the love and blessing of parents, in the Bible we see baptism occurring only after a person has made a conscious choice to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. For this reason, Hyland Park Church performs believer baptisms only, which means we don't baptize infants.

How often do Baptisms take place at Hyland Park Assembly?

We typically try to plan a Baptism every 2-3 months. We want it to be a celebration time together so we will plan to do several baptisms on the same day. Check with Casey Emery at the Blue Wall on the next one scheduled so we can make sure we get you in.

PREPARING AND SHARING YOUR STORY

Communicating how you entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ is vitally important. On a separate sheet of paper take some time now to tell us more about that experience in your life. You may either hand write your testimony or type it on a computer. Either way, please include your story when you submit your request form. While you have the freedom to write your testimony in any form that you deem appropriate, many have found it easier to share their story of salvation by breaking down their testimony into the following three stages:

Before I received Christ:

Describe your value system, motivations and lifestyle prior to your life surrendered to Christ. Identify the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Jesus Christ as the solution to your spiritual need and ultimately led to your decision to accept Him as Savior. In some cases this process may have taken place over a long period of time.

How I received Christ:

Please include the specific steps that you took to become a Christian and why you believe that you have eternal life. As much as possible, try to avoid religious lingo or church clichés (“born again”, “asked Jesus into my heart”, etc.) as this will prepare you to communicate your story more clearly and authentically to your friends.

After I received Christ:

Describe the difference that Christ has made in your thinking, motivation, values, and actions. For some this may be a dramatic change from the “before” description. For others who accepted Christ at an early age, this step will allow you to think through and describe how your life is different than what it could have been and to describe the transformation that is continuing to take place in your life. In either case, please state what assurances that you have of forgiveness and eternal life.

We understand that this may be the first time you have ever written out your testimony and it can be a challenging task. If you need help, please feel free to contact Casey. We look forward to reading your story of faith and we hope that you will take the time to share it with someone else who may not know the truth of the Gospel.

SCHEDULING A TIME TO SHARE YOUR STORY

A time will need to be set up for you to share your story, or testimony. This is a time when you can tell others how God has been at work in your life bringing you to this point of being baptized. This is one of the greatest times for a church to celebrate together, and a wonderful privilege for us to celebrate God’s work with you personally. When you have turned in your baptism request form and your story, we will work with you to schedule a time to share your testimony.

BAPTISM REQUEST FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Best number to reach you at: _____ - _____ - _____

Please complete all information requested. This information is important to us in communicating with you as we prepare for your baptism.

I read the Water Baptism Study Guide.

I completed my story/testimony, and included it with this application.

I feel that I am ready to be baptized.

I have questions and would like to speak with someone before proceeding with my baptism.

State briefly why you want to be baptized?

After completing this form, you may bring it to Casey Emery during one of our services, or mail it to Hyland Park Church, PO Box 8625, Fayetteville, AR, 72703. If you have any other questions or concerns regarding baptism, please contact Casey.