

HOW TO:
LEAD STUDENTS TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
AND OUR BAPTISM PROCESS

Great Life Group Leaders lead students step by step to God.

5 Step Process for leading students to baptism and a relationship with Jesus with practical TIPS and TRICKS for every step of the way.

1. HAVE THE CONVERSATION

● BE INTENTIONAL

- Don't be awkward!
 - Be AWARE of when students give you cues to where their faith is.
- IDENTIFY those students who haven't been baptized.
- A great question to ask ANYONE is "who is God to you?"
 - This is a very accessible and non-invasive question that leads to a real revealing answer.
- MAKE THE TIME.
 - You don't have time, I get it, but it takes TIME to build a relationship. That 3 minute conversation that you have when you square up and focus on *their* world will make a HUGE difference.

● BE RELATIONAL

- Be real! Share YOUR Story.
 - Prepare to be relational by preparing your story. What did you struggle through? What did you doubt? How did God use the people in your life to change lives?
- Be observational!
 - When you have a prepared script on the principles of baptism...you miss out on the fact that declaring and giving a LIFE to the immeasurably awesome GOD OF THE UNIVERSE...will change a life.... So read the room, see the students who stir in their seats, take note of the students who are uneasy, and engage the the unlikely students. You never know who it is that God has placed you in their life to change their life.

2. CELEBRATE THE DECISION

● CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM DECISION

- Go nuts!
 - Why not? Baptism is a game changer, a life changer, and an exciting moment...so celebrate it!

● CELEBRATE EVERY DECISION

- They way you celebrate the decisions that students make about their faith determine the way they make decisions about the way they live their life.
- It also shows other students in your Life Group that they can make a next step too!

3. CONNECT WITH THE FAMILY

● THE KID

- Take the time to talk to a kid realistically and practically about what baptism is and what it means for their life. Use the Salvation Conversation Guide at the end of this guide.
- But remember...our faith isn't a checklist. Don't make the conversation into an interview or a checklist... in your heart... aim to help a student understand:
 - Who Jesus is...
 - What Sin is...
 - What Jesus did...
 - What it means for our life - then, now, and tomorrow
 - Read through Acts 2

● THE FAMILY

- Take the time to connect with their family. Because:
 - You never know if this is an opportunity to reach their family.
 - This is an opportunity to partner with their family to help students more effectively.
 - You **REALLY** don't want family to miss a baptism.

4. BAPTIZE THE KID

● THE GETTING IT DONE

- Make sure you celebrate
- Make sure you talk to the family
- Schedule the baptism:
 - When is the baptism happening? (weekend or at studentlife?)
 - Where is it happening?
 - Who is baptizing? (You, Parents, someone else. Just make sure they are baptized themselves as well)
- Contact YOUR Leader

● THE EXCITING STUFF

- Make sure to PLEASE give your leaders at least 1 day in advance.
- Instruct the student and families to meet us 30 minutes before service and inform your leader.
- Your script: *"Hey Real Life, my name is _____, I serve as a leader in studentlife, and this is _____, _____ has made the decision to follow Jesus and is here to be baptized. _____, what is your confession? **Jesus is Lord.** Because of your confession, I can now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."* **DUNK.**

5. FOLLOW UP

● LIFE IN CHRIST

- Be sure to explain what it means to live as a Christian...and show them that you're there for them.
 - Help them to connect relationally to grow spiritually, in order to go faithfully.
 - Emphasize how important it is that they keep committing to be a part of studentlife and staying **connected**...because they can change the world. Changed lives change lives.
 - Reach out to them about **growing in their faith** through small steps like praying and reading their bibles for the first time to praying consistently and having a real and thriving relationship with God.
 - **MOBILIZE their faith** by helping them to use their passions and strengths to make a difference with their time, talent, and treasure.



WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS AND BE BAPTIZED

OUR RESPONSE

The New Testament both commands and shows how we should respond to God's offer of forgiveness. This faith response includes these aspects:

BELIEVE in Jesus.

- It is recognizing that he is God's Son; he came as a man, died for us and rose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)
- It is having faith, which is placing our total trust in him. (John 3:16)
- It is NOT simply intellectual assent, Biblical faith includes obedience to Him. (James 2:14-24)

DECLARE that Jesus is Lord.

- It is publicly declaring that you are now living your life for Jesus. (Romans 10:9-10)
- It is NOT simply saying that you believe in Jesus, but that He is in charge of your life. (2 Corinthians 9:13)
- It is never denying him, even when people and situations pressure you. (Matthew 10:32-33)

REPENT of (or turn away from) sin.

- It is asking for forgiveness while we walk toward Jesus and away from sin. (Acts 2:38)
- It is NOT achieving perfection before you follow Jesus, but it is changing your heart and mind, turning from your old way of life. (Acts 26:20)
- It is NOT merely being sorry for what you have done, but getting right with God. (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)

Be BAPTIZED into Christ.

- It is for believers only and it is properly done by immersion in water. (Acts 8:36-38)
- It is NOT magic water, but it is commanded as part of the faith response to the gift of God's grace. (Acts 2:38) (Galatians 3:26-27)
- It is our pledge to God that pictures Jesus' resurrection in our life. (1 Peter 3:21) (Romans 6:4)

LIVE IT OUT.

- It is following Jesus for the rest of your life. (Revelation 2:10)
- It is growing in our relationship with Him. (Philippians 1:6, 2:12)
- It is staying connected to Jesus and bearing fruit for Him. (John 15:5-8)
- It does NOT mean you will never sin again, but that you will not deliberately continue in sin. (Hebrews 10:26)
- It is NOT earning grace, but it is a response to grace. (Romans 6:1,2)

PERSONAL RESPONSE INVENTORY:

Realizing that God loves me and created me to have a personal relationship with Him, and that my sin makes me guilty and separates me from God - I have responded in the following ways:

I **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for me upon the cross.

I have **REPENTED** of my sin, turning from my old way of living to God.

I have **DECLARED** Jesus to be the Lord (Leader) and Savior (Forgiver) of my life.

I have been **BAPTIZED** (immersed) in obedience to Christ's example and command.

NEXT STEPS:

- GROW in your relationship with God and COMMIT to building relationships with your Life Group. (Matt 28:19)
- Start SERVING (Gal 5:13, 1 Peter 4:10)

(see Life Group Leader for more info)



SALVATION CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

THERE MAY BE ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES TEENAGERS AND THE PHASE THEY'RE IN RIGHT NOW: OWNERSHIP. THEY'RE LOOKING AT THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THE THINGS THEY'VE INHERITED FROM THEIR FAMILY—THE TRADITIONS, MORALS, VALUES AND FAITH—AND THEY'RE MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT WHETHER WHAT THEY'VE OBSERVED IS SOMETHING THEY WANT FOR THEMSELVES. DECISIONS STUDENTS MAKE NOW ABOUT SALVATION AND A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT BECAUSE THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THEIR FUTURE. THE BEST THING FOR A STUDENT TO UNDERSTAND AT THIS POINT IN THEIR LIVES IS THAT *GOD IS FOR THEM*. AND THAT IN ALL THINGS, HIS GRACE IS REAL AND COVERS ALL OF THEIR SIN—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

WHAT **TO** SAY

1. GOD LOVES YOU

- You were made in the image of God. When God sees you, He accepts you and He loves you.
- But we're broken. We behave in a way that's harmful to ourselves and separates us from God. That's called sin. Sin convinces us to focus on ourselves—that we matter most and we know best. While God isn't mad at us, He does know that our sin will hurt us—hurt how we understand ourselves, how we treat others and how we view Him.
- Our sin keeps us from seeing what's true about God, ourselves and others. Sin convinces us that we know best, that God is against us and that we matter more than those around us. Ultimately sin keeps us from God Himself.

Ask...

1. How have you seen sin hurt you?
2. How have you seen sin hurt others?
3. What is the biggest problem of sin?

2. GOD IS FOR YOU

- God knew our sin would make us want to hide from Him and look out only for our best interest with no regard for others.
- God also knew that when we sin we'd think God would want to come after us to punish us. We'd be tempted to distance ourselves from Him to avoid His punishment. But God isn't interested in punishing our sin as revenge. Instead, He wants to free us to live for something better.
- To prove how committed God was to life with us and for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, to go to the greatest length possible to demonstrate His love. Jesus died on the cross for us to show us God is for us. Jesus paid the price of our sin with His death.
- After three days, Jesus was resurrected from the dead, proving He has ultimate power, and that He can do what He says He'll do. And we can know that nothing—not even death—can separate us from Him. When we put our faith in Him, He has the power to transform our lives, to make us new.

Ask...

1. What was the purpose of God sending Jesus to die?
2. How do you feel about someone who is willing to die for you?
3. How did sending Jesus deal with our problem with sin?

3. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN JESUS

- Believing in what God demonstrated through Jesus is like accepting a gift.
- We accept the gift when we decide to trust that the God who made us is for us—that He is willing to do anything to prove His love and that He wants what's best for us. We show that trust by living in a way that reflects our confidence in what God says is best.
- We know that God loves us and nothing we do could ever jeopardize our standing with Him. No amount of good behavior and no amount of sin will change the way He feels about us.
- We open the gift when we use our lives to give the same love to others that Jesus showed to us.

4. FAITH RESPONSE

- Acts 2:38, the people asked, when they're presented with the love of God, "what should we do to respond?" Peter says: "Repent, and be baptized." This means that we turn away from sin, and we turn to Jesus and we respond in baptism. Baptism is the public declaration that "Jesus is Lord" and full immersion in water.

Ask...

1. What does it mean to trust what God did for us?
2. How does knowing God's love change the way we see Him?
3. How does someone live differently when they trust that God loves them?

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY

1. "INVITE JESUS IN YOUR HEART..."

- For students, the phrase "inviting Jesus into my heart" can sound childish and not fully represent the important faith decision being made.

2. "YOU HAVE TO PRAY LIKE THIS..."

- Students are going to express their faith through their own understanding of it. Don't get hung up on the "right words" but rather the heart with which they pray.

3. ANY ANSWER YOU MAKE UP.

- Don't make up answers to questions you don't know yourself. "I don't know" is a legitimate answer to questions your student has about faith. There's so much that we don't understand about how God works and how the Holy Spirit enters our life. And that's okay.