

Crossroads

Baptism Instructions:

2013.1

What to wear and what to expect when baptized:

- Begin the service in the clothes you will be baptized in.
- You may wear shorts or long pants. We suggest that you wear a t shirt or button up shirt, but be sure it is not white since white becomes see through when it gets wet.
- We advise women to wear their swimsuits under their clothes.
- Wear sandals or flip flops
- Be sure to bring a change of clothes, which you will put in the bathroom where you will be changing. Do not leave any valuables unsupervised.
- Bring two large towels. One to cover and dry off with immediately as you come out of the water and one to leave in the bathroom with your clothes.
- Bring a gym bag or plastic bag to carry your wet clothes home in.
- Bring a comb or brush for your hair.
- When more than one person is being baptized, you will each share your testimony one after the other as a group, and then we will baptize you one after another.
- Remember your testimony should be about 4-5 minutes long. Please do not go over the time limit, as it affects the audience's ability to listen to you and to those who come after you.
- Parents will participate in their child's baptism
- Small groups will stand up front with their group members during their baptism and small group leaders will participate in the immersion.

How to Prepare Your Baptism Testimony

2 Options (pick one)

Testimony (option a)

Sharing Your Story About Becoming A Christ Follower:

Please write down your story. Tell us how you became a Christ follower. If you don't have any idea how to do this, here is an outline to follow. If you use your own outline please be sure to cover each of these points, so that other people will be encourage to become Christ-followers too!

Elaborate a bit, or for the minimum, please write out two sentence completions to each of these main points. Then just put them together, and you will have your story.

1. **I felt a need for having my sins forgiven and becoming a Christ-follower . . . [how/why]**
2. **[What/who] caused me to think about Jesus and my need for a forgiver and leader . . . (how)**
3. **I know that when Jesus died on the Cross, He . . . (did what for me)**
4. **[When/how] did I ask Jesus to become my Forgiver/Leader and Savior?**
 - It is very important that you describe how you came to realize that you could not be forgiven or get to heaven any other way than through Jesus Christ. The point at which you surrendered to Jesus is the crisis point or turning point that we must all come to in order to trust Christ as our Savior. People need to hear you describe how that happened in your life.
5. **If someone were to ask me, "How do I know that I'm a Christ-follower?" I would tell them . . .**
6. **At present and in the future I want Jesus to accomplish [what things] in my life. . .**
7. **A Bible verse that encourages me as I live for Christ is... and this is how it helps me...**

After your story is complete, you can read it or tell it to the church family prior to your baptism. God will use your story to touch people's hearts in a wonderful and miraculous way!!

Your testimony should be about 4-5 minutes long. Please do not go over the time limit, as it affects the audience's ability to listen to you and to those who come after you.

Testimony (option b)

Sharing About Becoming A Christ Follower Utilizing 3 Images

- As you are thinking about baptism, here is an explanation of what we're asking you to present that day...
- Choose three images...

1) An image representing your life before you came to Christ...

2) An image representing how you turned your life over to Christ and share a verse from the Bible that helps you to understand what that means...

It is very important that you describe how you came to realize that you could not be forgiven or get to heaven any other way than through Jesus Christ. The point at which you surrendered to Jesus is the crisis point or turning point that we must all come to in order to trust Christ as our Savior. People need to hear you describe how that happened in your life.

3) An image representing what you desire for God to do with your life.

- These may be photos, paintings, poems, word pictures, pottery, stories, PowerPoint slides... actually anything creative!
- As part of your story read a Bible verse that encourages you as you live for Christ and explain how this verse helps you.

• Your testimony should be about 4-5 minutes long. Please do not go over the time limit, as it affects the audience's ability to listen to you and to those who come after you.

- You may do this entirely on your own or solicit the help of anyone you wish provided that the images have their origin in your heart and your experience. The other people might be helpful in translating your internal image into an actual image that we can show to others. If the image is yours, it will communicate very clearly to others.

I'm Praying for you as you prepare! Let me know if you have any questions.

Your Friend,

Pastor Rick