

Please read below to find out information on baptism at The Vine. If you have questions, or would like to schedule a baptism for yourself, or a member of your family, please email [Tim Barton](#), Pastor of Family Ministries.

What is the significance of baptism? In the New Testament, Jesus ordained baptism to be a sign of entrance into the community of faith called the covenant community. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Who may be baptized? Baptism is for those who are part of the covenant community. This community is made up of those who publicly acknowledge their need for the Lord Jesus Christ as their only hope. We also believe the covenant community includes the children of these people. (Matthew 28:18-20, Gen. 17:7, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 16:31-33)

What is infant baptism? Infant Baptism is when the sign of water is placed upon the children of believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, demonstrating their entrance into the covenant community where they receive the blessings promised to the children of believers.

Does baptizing infants save them? No. We believe that every person must come to a time in his or her life to acknowledge their own sin and need for the work that Jesus Christ did in his perfect life, his death to pay the penalty for sin, and his resurrection to defeat the power of sin in our lives. When a child comes to believe the Gospel in their own heart, they will be invited to our children's membership class, be interviewed by an elder as to their profession of faith, and invited to come to Communion (The Lord's Supper) as a public profession of faith.

Am I required to be a member of The Vine Community Church to have my child baptized? Yes. When you have your children baptized, you have placed yourself and your children under the umbrella of protection and authority of the local church. Leaders of the local church are responsible for protecting, praying for, and cultivating the spiritual nurture of our members and their children.

If I am a member, must I have my child baptized? We remind you that in baptism our children are enjoying all the privileges of being part of the covenant community, as happened in Acts 16:15; 31, where they will receive every opportunity to know Jesus. We would encourage you as members to have your child baptized as Abraham was instructed to place the sign of the covenant community on his children in Gen 17.

What was the sign of belonging to the covenant community prior to Jesus' coming? Circumcision was this sign and was applied to every male and their male children when they were eight days old. This set them apart to receive the blessings and benefits of growing in the community where they would be taught about God and how to honor him with their lives. Gen 17 and Deuteronomy 6:5-9.

What are the next steps after baptism? Following baptism, we encourage the leaders and entire congregation to pray for your child and take every opportunity to promote Jesus as Savior and Lord in your child's life. In addition to this, the child receives the oversight of the elders through direct interaction and overall guidance as the elders seek to train children, parents and the entire congregation in understanding Jesus and applying the message of grace to our lives. As mentioned above, when a child comes to the point of understanding that Jesus is their source of hope, they will be invited to our children's membership class, be interviewed by an elder as to their profession of faith, and invited to come to Communion (The Lord's Supper) as a public profession of faith.