

Rock Kids Baptism Class

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14b

Our Rock Kids Baptism class is a pre-requisite for 2nd-5th grade children to be baptized through the Rock Church. The class is for children who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior according to the Scriptures and who desire to be baptized. At the class we will discuss salvation, baptism, and how children can begin to grow in their Christian faith.

To make the class as beneficial as possible, we require at least one parent/guardian to attend the class with their child.

What is baptism?

Baptism is a scriptural requirement of one's obedient witness and symbolic and spiritual identification with Jesus Christ's death. Children are not being baptized into the Rock Church but into the Body of Christ universal. Baptism does not save the believing child but is instead an outward symbolic representation of the inward work of grace through your child's faith. The Great Commission instructs the followers of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:19-20).

Who can be baptized?

Since baptism is a picture of the beginning the Christian life, it is only for believers in Jesus Christ. If a child has made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ in repenting of his or her sins and has received Jesus into their heart by faith, we encourage them to follow Jesus' command to be baptized as a public profession of their faith in Him.

Can baptism save my child?

Baptism does not save anyone. Some people make the mistake in thinking that baptism is essential for salvation. They think that faith + baptism = eternal life. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not as a result of works so that no one can boast." It is clear from this passage of Scripture that faith in Jesus Christ is the only thing that saves and faith itself is a gift from God.

Why should my child be baptized?

Baptism is an act of obedience to God. We get baptized to obey God's Word. When Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 to His disciples He said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This command is not optional in our obedience to the Scriptures. Before a person gets baptized he or she must be a disciple or follower of Jesus Christ. In Acts 2:38, Peter says, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ." This shows that every person who repents of their sins and believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior needs to be baptized. Baptism is a primary way by which we publicly profess our desire to follow the Lord.

At what age should children be baptized?

The Bible does not give us a precise age at which we should baptize children. For that reason we do not have an age requirement. However, the Bible is clear that children must be able to give a credible profession of their faith - one that is genuine and rooted in a Biblical understanding of salvation - in order to be baptized. This does not mean that children should be able to simply list

the "right" answers before they are ready for baptism. It does mean that children should show that they have genuine faith based on a right understanding of God, sin, repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Likewise, a child must possess a simple understanding of what baptism is and why baptism is important.

Infants / Toddlers

If your child is an infant/toddler, you may wish to participate in the Rock Church's Child Dedication Class & Ceremony.

We encourage parents to wait until their child is mentally, emotionally and spiritually ready for baptism. We want baptism to be a very meaningful positive experience for children and one that a child will cherish. The older a child is, the more likely he or she will look back on his or her experience with the confidence that is reflected in a sincere desire to follow the Lord.