

making waves



07

belief and baptism

11

what is sin?

15

what is baptism?

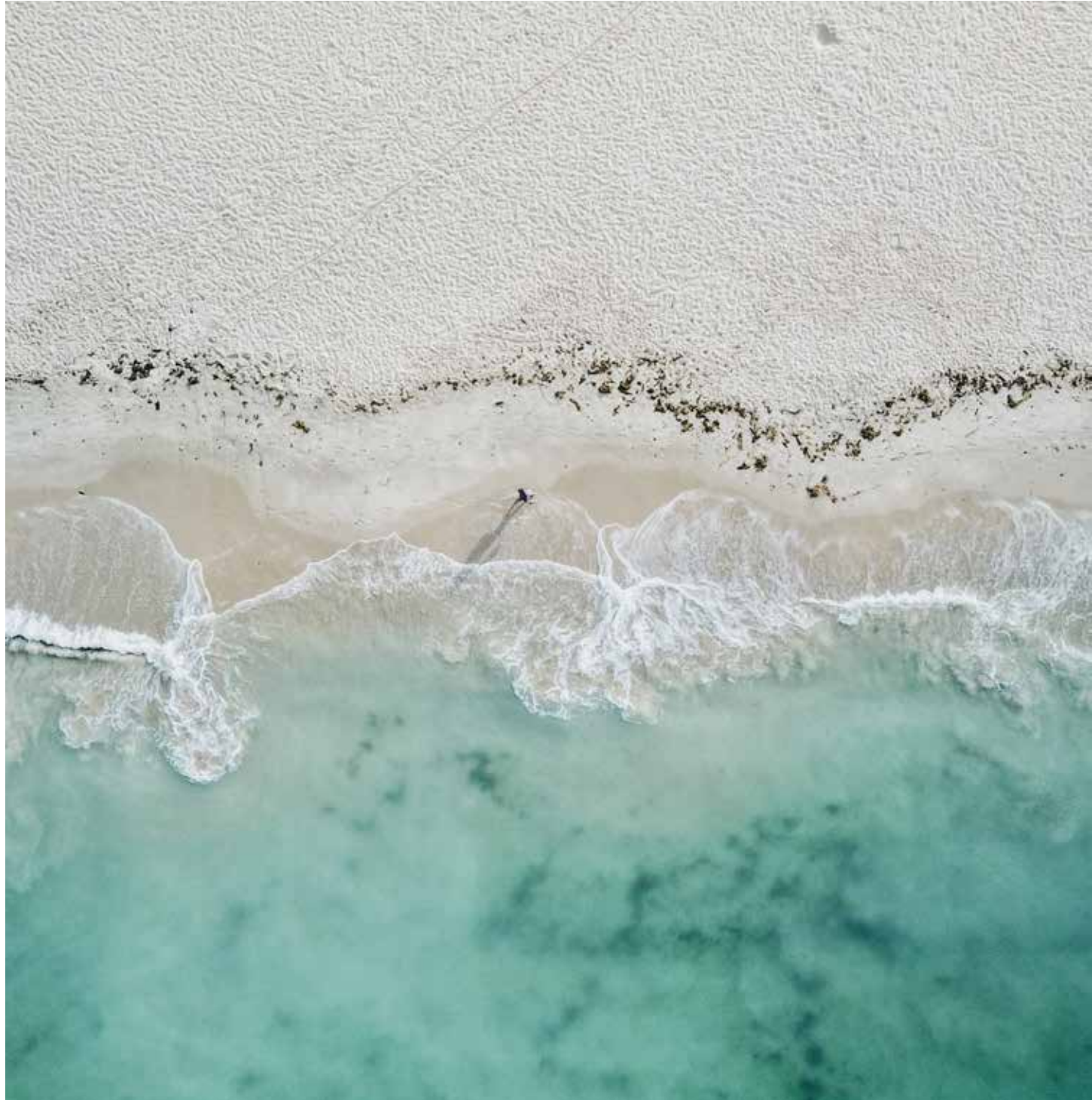
16

why is baptism significant?

21

so, why baptism?

**helping people take
next steps with God**





01

belief and baptism

saying yes to Jesus

The mission of 2|42 is *Helping People Take Next Steps With God*. Simply put, we want to help you enter into a relationship with Jesus and help you grow in that relationship. We hope this booklet will help clarify some questions you may have as you consider these very important decisions.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak with someone, please call us at **810.231.0190**.

what does it mean to believe in Jesus?

Believing in Jesus means trusting in the person and accomplishment of Jesus.

We believe in the person of Jesus by trusting that Jesus is God's only Son and by choosing to trust Him to forgive our sins and lead us.

We believe in the accomplishment of Jesus by acknowledging that we are separated from God because of our sin and by trusting that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, He has provided the only way for us to be reunited with God.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus.

ROMANS 3|22-24

He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

COLOSSIANS 2|14-15 NLT



02

what is sin?



Sin is more than just breaking the Ten Commandments; we sin when we choose our way over God's way.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

JAMES 1|13-15

what is the answer to sin?

God sent Jesus to take upon Himself all the sins of mankind, on the cross, thereby allowing those who believe to receive forgiveness for all sins. God offers new life to all who believe in the person and accomplishment of Jesus and make Him their Lord.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3|16

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

JOHN 10|10

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 JOHN 3|8

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

ROMANS 5|10



how do I know if I believe?

If you trust that Jesus is the Son of God, and you believe that His death and resurrection provided the only way for you to be reconciled with God, and if you want Jesus to lead your life—you have demonstrated belief.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an impressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 PETER 1|8-9

your immediate response to that belief is baptism

Those who accepted his message were baptized.

ACTS 2|41

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2|38



03

what is baptism?

an expression of faith

Baptism does not make you a follower of Christ. Every example we see in the Bible demonstrates that first a person is to believe in Jesus and then baptism is an expression of that belief.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2|8-9

an identification

Baptism is the means by which followers of Jesus are identified. In Matthew 28|19, Jesus commands His followers:

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...

MATTHEW 28|19

04

why is baptism significant?

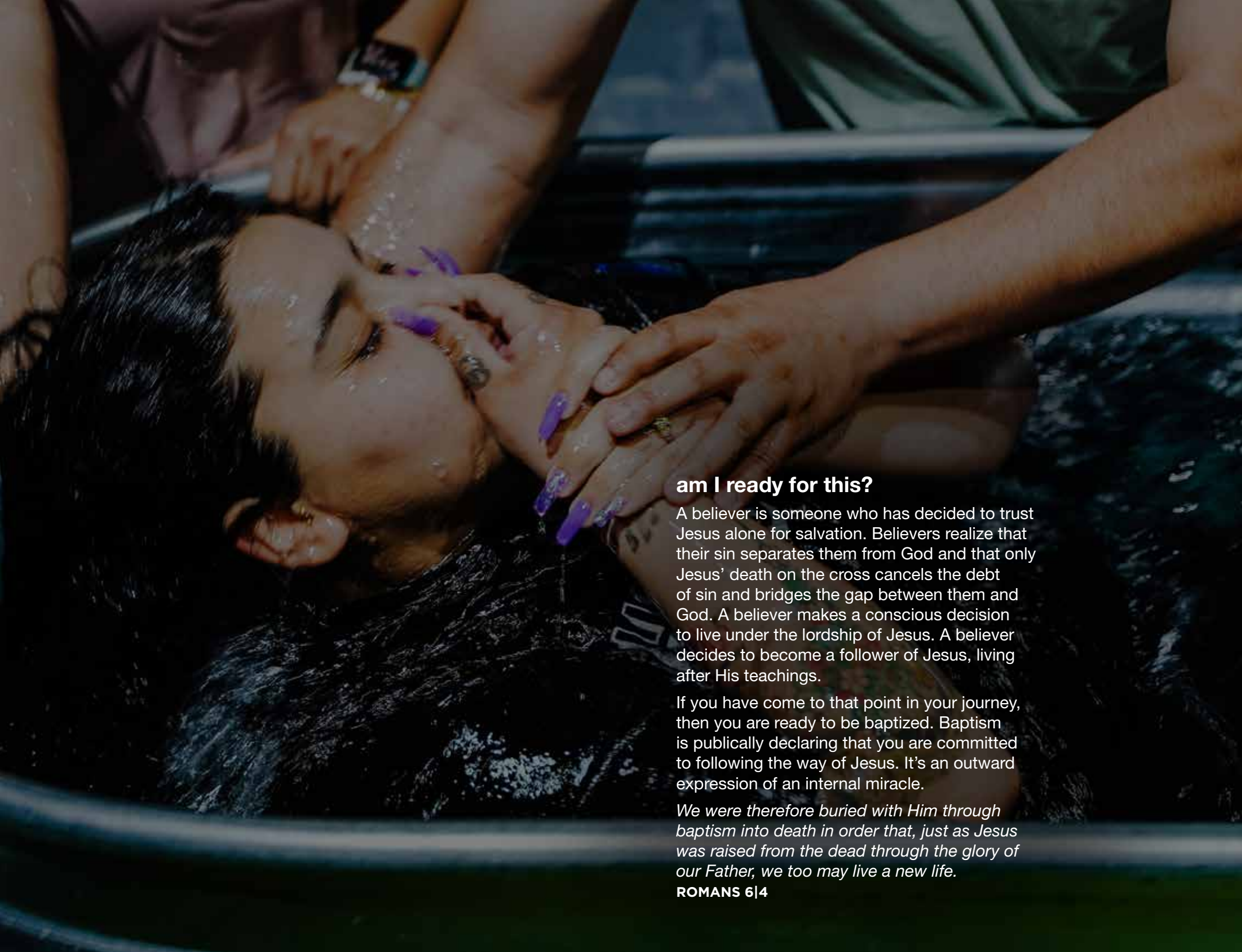
an illustration of Jesus' death and resurrection

In Romans 6|1–11, the apostle Paul explains how baptism by immersion identifies the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Going underwater signifies Jesus' death and coming up out of the water illustrates His resurrection. Baptism symbolizes your commitment to enthrone Jesus as the Lord of your life and live like Him.

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

ROMANS 5|10





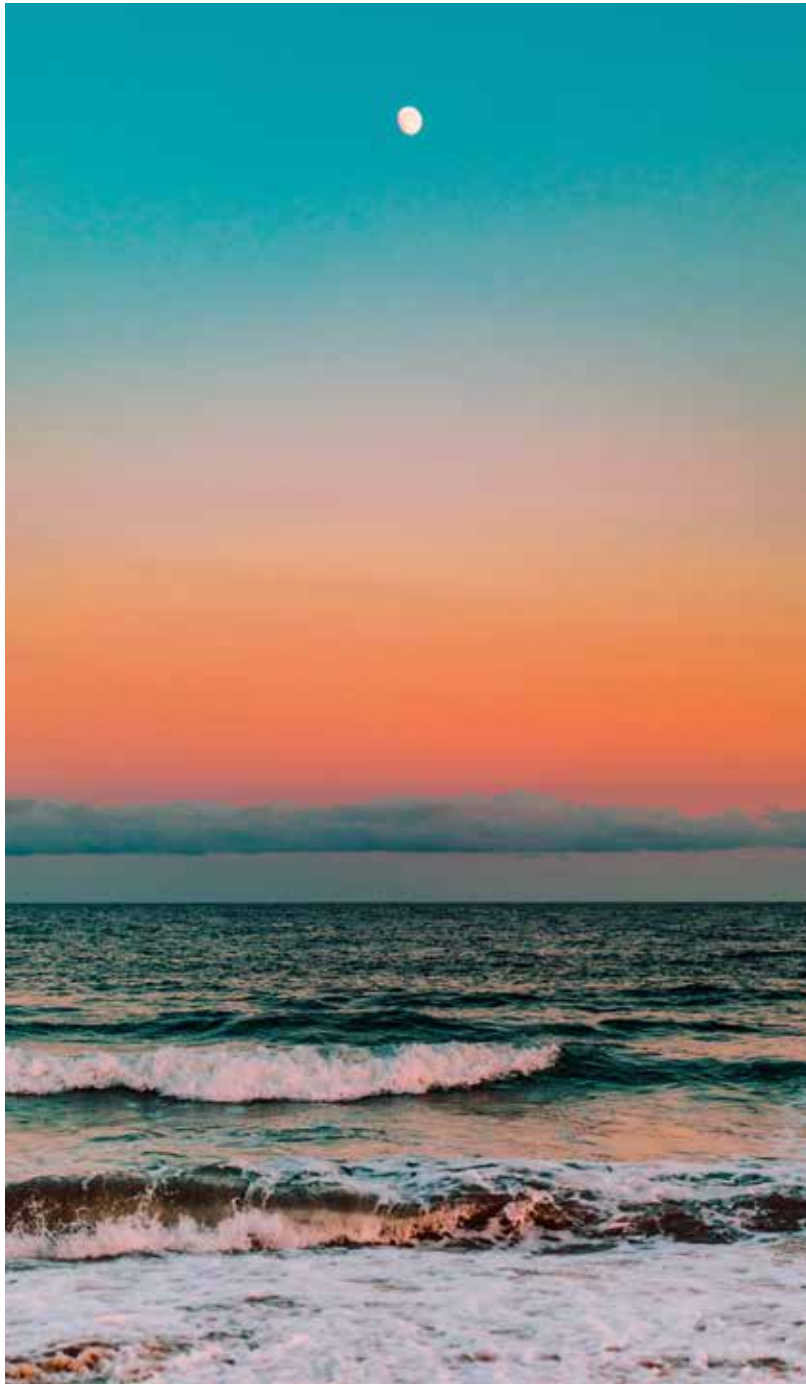
am I ready for this?

A believer is someone who has decided to trust Jesus alone for salvation. Believers realize that their sin separates them from God and that only Jesus' death on the cross cancels the debt of sin and bridges the gap between them and God. A believer makes a conscious decision to live under the lordship of Jesus. A believer decides to become a follower of Jesus, living after His teachings.

If you have come to that point in your journey, then you are ready to be baptized. Baptism is publically declaring that you are committed to following the way of Jesus. It's an outward expression of an internal miracle.

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Jesus was raised from the dead through the glory of our Father, we too may live a new life.

ROMANS 6|4



05

so, why baptism?

following Jesus' example

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

MARK 1|9

following Jesus' command

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.

MATTHEW 28|19-20

demonstrating your faith

...many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

ACTS 18|8

How are we to be baptized?

Jesus was baptized by being immersed in water.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.

MATTHEW 3|16^A

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...

ACTS 8|38-39

The word “baptized” literally means to dip or immerse under water. Baptism by immersion is the best way to illustrate a burial and resurrection.

Who should be baptized?

Those who accepted (believed) his message were baptized...

ACTS 2|41

Every person mature enough to make a personal decision to submit their life to Jesus, to follow Him and His teachings, should be baptized.

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have decided to fully follow the way of Jesus, you should be baptized.

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 8|35-38

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes, provided each family member understands the meaning of baptism and has placed his or her faith in Jesus. Children under twelve years old are asked to attend our Baptism Class for kids before proceeding with baptism. For infants we offer child dedication twice a year.

When do baptisms take place?

Baptisms take place after all our services and at other pre-arranged times.

What should I wear for my baptism?

We provide you with a shirt and knee-length swim shorts. We will provide a place to change out of your wet clothes. We have towels and plastic bags to hold your wet clothing after you change.

Where do I go on the day of my baptism?

Just come forward to the stage after a service or speak with one of our prayer volunteers.

capturing your story

To celebrate this occasion, it's important to reflect on how you got here. So, we're asking you to tell us how and when you decided to make Jesus the Lord of your life and trust in Him for your salvation.

when writing your story, please focus on these points:

What was your life like before you decided to follow Jesus?

How and when did you decide to trust Jesus alone for your salvation?

How has this decision made a difference in your life?

Sharing your story encourages others to take this ultimate next step with God.





what if I have more questions?

If you have other questions regarding baptism, they can be answered by calling the church office at **810.231.0190** or ask any of the staff or volunteers before or after a weekend service.

