



# **A Guide to Water Baptism Info Session**

*Water Baptism Info Sessions are held after weekend services the weekend before baptismal services are scheduled to take place. These sessions explain the significance of baptism and practicalities of someone being baptised at the service on the following weekend. New people, new Christians, and people across church life are invited to attend these sessions. This resource is a brief provided to the leader of the session.*



# — WATER BAPTISM —

## **WATER BAPTISM INFO SESSIONS**

Congratulations! We are so excited that you have decided to find out more about the important step as a Christian of being baptised in water. We believe this will be a special moment in your life!

Water Baptism is a significant event because you are showing publicly – in front of your friends, family and church – that you are committed to following Jesus and living for Him. We think that is something worth celebrating!

As you prepare to be baptised, here's some Biblical and practical info that will help you:

### **1. WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?**

Water baptism is to show that a person has chosen to leave their previous life (sin nature) or to join a new one (life of faith & life in Jesus). It was used by teachers and preachers in the Bible, like John the Baptist, as a way for people to show they were leaving behind their old life and wanted to now live God's way.

Jesus identified Water Baptism as a way for believers to show their commitment when He gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Water Baptism is far more than a ritual or religious ceremony – it is a public, outward declaration of your faith. It associates you with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and represents that you have left behind your old life and have begun a new life following Jesus.

- Colossians 2:12 *“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptised. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”*

Water Baptism IS NOT something you do to receive salvation or to become a Christian. It is something you do BECAUSE you have received salvation through faith in Jesus and have become a Christian (a follower of Jesus Christ). Water Baptism is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It also identifies you as being part of and committed to the “body of Christ”, the church.

This is why we only baptize people when they are old enough to understand what they are doing and have made their own choice to declare their faith publicly.



# — WATER BAPTISM —

## **2. WHAT WILL HAPPEN?**

Please arrive at church 30mins before the service and come to [insert room at venue]. One of our pastors will speak to everyone getting baptised about what to expect, and answer any questions. We will give you an “I Have Decided” t-shirt to wear during your baptism and we will also do a walk-through of what will happen (your family & friends are welcome to join you for this if you wish).

Please bring:

- Shorts or long pants (We encourage women to wear bathers under these clothes)
- Towel
- A bag to take your wet clothes home in
- Hairbrush/comb and hair dryer (if desired)
- Change of clothes

It is easiest to arrive at church in the clothes you will be baptised in, and then get changed after you have been baptised.

We will have a reserved seating section for you and your family & friends who come with you, [specify location of seating].

Part way through the service (usually after the first song), the pastor will ask everyone who is being baptised to make their way to the baptism pool. From the platform they will pray for everyone getting water baptised before we start. One of our team will check your name before you get in the baptismal pool with two of our pastors/leaders. The baptism will all be projected onto the screens for everyone to see. Please encourage your friends & family to come close to the pool so they can take photos. A photographer will take a photo to give you as a memento with your Water Baptism certificate (these will be posted to you). You will then be lowered backwards under the water and lifted back up. After you get out of the pool, some of our team will take a moment to pray for you. You can then go and get dried and changed. If you have a family member or friend also being baptised, feel free to wait on the steps of the pool to cheer them on.

If one of our pastors or key leaders has been instrumental in your journey of faith, it may be possible to have them be in the pool to baptize you if you would like that. Please speak to us if this is the case – we can't always do it because of time restraints with the large number of people being baptised, but we'll try if we can.

We encourage you to pray and believe for God to do something significant in your life as you take this public step of obedience and commitment – to fill you with the Holy Spirit, to break an addiction, or any other breakthrough you believe for. You may or may not feel different after being baptised but you can be confident that God's hand of blessing will be on you. Once you have finished in the change rooms (please be as quick as possible!), please make your way back to your seat in the service.

After the service we have an AFTERPARTY in the Welcome Lounge where we would love to celebrate your decision and host your family & friends who came to witness your Water Baptism.



# — WATER BAPTISM —

### **3. INVITING FRIENDS & FAMILY?**

Your Water Baptism is the perfect opportunity for you to invite family and friends to church, especially any who may not usually go to church. People will more often come to church when you ask them to come and support you in the decision you are making – that it would mean a lot to YOU if they came. We believe that they will be impacted and inspired by your decision to follow Jesus, and they will hear a clear explanation of the message of Jesus. People always say Yes to Jesus at Water Baptisms!

Make sure to hand out the Water Baptism invitation cards to people so they can utilise them when inviting people!

### **4. REGO CARDS**

If people haven't filled in a Water Baptism registration card please get them to do so – it helps us to help them have a significant night getting baptised.