



**LEADERSHIP
NETWORK**

A Guide to Baptisms

This is a snapshot of our '*A Guide to Baptisms*' resource.

Baptism is the initiation of the believer into the church and is an important ceremony in the life of both the believer and the church.

1. AS CHRISTIANS, WHY SHOULD WE BAPTISED?

BIBLICAL BASIS:

- An act of obedience following Christ's example
- An outward expression of an inward change, triggered by faith in God
- A symbol of burial and resurrection

The **PURPOSE OF BAPTISM** is a public profession of faith.

2. AS THE CHURCH, WHY DO WE BAPTISE PEOPLE?

THE TWO PROTESTANT SACRAMENTS:

Along with Communion, Baptism is one of the two Protestant 'Sacraments' - a Latin word meaning 'sacred oath'.

ORIGINS OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM:

Baptism in the Bible appears to involve total immersion in water. In the Bible it is depicted as symbolically burying our old life and being resurrected to our new life. It represents a separation from an old life and a commitment to a new life in Christ.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM CEREMONIES:

REQUIREMENTS FOR A PERSON BEING BAPTISED:

- Pre-service baptism briefing
- Confession of faith
- Possible age limits
- We are open to baptising a person again if they feel prompted by the Holy Spirit

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PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS TO CONDUCT A BAPTISM CEREMONY:

- Baptisms held during Sunday PM services approximately every 6 weeks
- Relevant communication to team/congregation of upcoming baptisms
- Specialist preparations by teams across church life, e.g. events, venue, new Christians, follow ups, resource centre, welcome lounge
- Pastors/baptism team confirm ceremony details and practical actions

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:

Pastors and relevant teams are to be aware of and have considered solutions to potential unexpected challenges that may arise.

4. BAPTISM CEREMONY PROCEDURES:

REGISTERING FOR BAPTISM: Online, on signup cards, during a discipleship course, or via a follow up team member midweek during a call

COMMUNICATION PRE-BAPTISM: Email 2 weeks prior, call 1 week prior, pre-baptism briefing is 30 minutes before chosen baptismal service

ON THE NIGHT:

- In the pool, pastors wait for MC prompting to begin baptisms
- In the pool, pastors ask each individual why they are being baptised, hear their response, then say *'By the confession of your faith we baptise you... in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost'* and baptise them!
- Outside the pool, baptism team pray and connect with individuals and guide them on practicalities of where to get changed, before they rejoin the service or go straight to baptism afterparty
- Baptism afterparty held in Welcome Lounge for those baptised and their family and friends. We give each individual a DVD of their baptism

AFTER THE NIGHT: A baptism certificate is mailed out to individuals

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Our full *'A Guide to Baptisms'* resource and much more content is available today on the Hillsong Leadership Network Online Portal.

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- New People Network - package of resources for teams welcoming, connecting and serving new people and new Christians
- A Guide to 'Making Church Home' Parties
- Follow Up Guide - guide for following up new people, new Christians or people looking to take their next step via midweek personal communication from team