



# LOVE GOD

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# TRUST CHRIST

**Read the following prayer out loud:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I acknowledge that I have sinned and that I cannot save myself. I believe that Jesus came to give me life and by faith I now choose to trust you Jesus as my Lord and Savior. May the power of Your indwelling presence enable me to be the person You created me to be. I pray that You would grant me repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth so that I can experience my freedom in Christ and be transformed by the renewing of my mind. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.

Would you consider this prayer a declaration from something you already believe or something new, perhaps this is the first time you have prayed such a prayer to God? How did it feel to pray that prayer?

Or perhaps the prayer doesn't sit right with you for some reason. If so, why is that?

## **My Faith Story**

A faith story is simply what it sounds like, the story of when you came to faith or where you are at in your faith/trust in Christ. Use the following questions to help guide you in shaping your faith story.

My life before trusting Christ... When or where did you first remember hearing about Jesus or were serious about learning more about Him?

What kind of a lifestyle were you living before knowing or trusting Christ? (worldview, relationships, interests, addictions or unhealthy habits.)

The moment or series of moments that lead me to trust Christ...

When did "trusting Christ" become a reality for you? When did you believe Jesus is who he said he was? Do you still believe that?

Who helped in explaining the good news of Jesus to you?

What does the phrase "I believe in Jesus" mean to you?

My life after trusting Christ...

How did your lifestyle change after trusting Christ? (worldview, relationships, interests, addictions or unhealthy habits.)

What does it look like in your life currently for you to trust Christ on a daily basis and not just the one-time decision?

In what areas are you still hesitant or find it difficult to trust Christ? (relationships, finances, addiction, work)

A faith story can help build others up and encourage them, letting them know where you have come from and how you have grown. In 3 minutes, share your faith story with someone else in the life group.

We see in scripture that after people believed in Jesus and trusted him, they were baptized.

*But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12*

*Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. Acts 8:13*

### **We get baptized because ...**

Jesus got baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). So we follow his example. His life was worth following, so we follow him too in baptism.

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus told us to get baptized (Matthew 28:19-20). The very last thing Jesus told his disciples was to go out, tell others about him and baptize them. Those people then did the same as did the people after that. This happened over and over and over and over until finally we have been told about Jesus and now it is time for us to be baptized. So, you getting baptized is following a command that Jesus gave you.

19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **What Baptism is NOT**

- Baptism is not how you get to heaven. A lot of people think it is. Remember, baptism is something you do as a result of following Christ.
- Baptism does not wash away your sin. There is no special soap in the water to take away your desire to sin. Some people think that if they could just get baptized, it will wash away their sin and they won't do bad things anymore.

*Baptism is not those things. It is something entirely different. It is a symbol.*

A symbol is something that stands for something else. It is one thing that represents something else.

So, that leads to the million dollar question. If baptism is a symbol, what does it represent?

Romans 6:3-5

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

This verse describes Jesus' death and his body being buried in a tomb but him not staying dead and raising to life having victory over death!

Read this verse again but picture yourself being baptized...this may help you understand what baptism symbolizes. Baptism symbolizes what Christ gives us access to, a new life in Him but also represents our decision to trust Christ.

Have you been baptized? What did that experience mean to you?

If you haven't been baptized, is that something you are interested in? What questions do you still have?

For more information about baptism at Gateway or to sign up for a baptism visit - <http://www.gatewaychurch.com/next-steps/baptism/>