children

Water Baptism

April 22 > 8:15 or 11:00 a.m.

des moines first assembly

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Congratulations!

Your decision to be baptized in water is a public declaration that you are a Christian — a child of God. You are following Jesus' last instructions to his disciples in Matthew 28: 19 & 20 to "baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

You need to attend the required baptism class Sunday, April 15, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in Rm 206. If you need help finding the room, just ask at the lobby Welcome Center. Plus, we will videotape your testimony from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the main office to show during the service when you are baptized.

Before the class:

1. Read this booklet.
2. Complete the application and testimony portion of this brochure (see next page), and bring it with you to the baptism class. Your testimony is a brief explanation of how you came to Christ and of your intention to serve Him forever. You will share publicly during the baptism service.
3. Pray expectantly that your baptism will be a deeply meaningful, unforgettable, landmark experience in your life.
4. Invite your family and friends, both saved and not yet saved, to come to the baptism service so that they might share the joy of this experience with you. If they are not yet saved, it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to see you following the Lord in water baptism and might encourage them to make a decision to follow the Lord.

During the class:

1. Review the importance of water baptism.
2. Receive procedural instructions for your actual baptism.
3. Turn in your completed **application** and **testimony.**

Bring to baptism:

1. A towel.
2. Dark clothing that has been washed to wear during your baptism. No swimming suits or light-colored clothing.
3. A change of clothes. Men's and women's locker rooms are available in the Gym for changing.
4. IMPORTANT: A pair of flip-flops or sandals.

Water Baptism Story:

"I got it!" called Steve as he rushed in the front door, "County Ordinance No. 135 on Bicycle Riding and Licensing. What does 'County Ordinance' mean?"

"Just 'county rules,' or 'county law,' that's all," replied Dad. "Laws that are made and enforced by the county are county ordinances. An ordinance is a law."

In church the next day, Steve heard the word "ordinance" again when the pastor talked about water baptism. He said, "Water baptism is an ordinance of the church." Steve's ears perked up. "I wonder why the church would make water baptism a rule?" He did not wonder for long, though, because the pastor read from the Bible, "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."

He went on, "Because water baptism is commanded by God, it becomes an ordinance, or rule, of the church."

After lunch that afternoon, Steve picked up his bicycle ordinance pamphlet again. "Listen to this, Mom. 'Always use hand signals to show your intentions to turn or stop.' The drawings show how each signal should be given. I knew cars had to signal, but I never thought about bikes. I guess it's so other people will know which way you're going."

Mom smiled. "That reminds me of this morning's sermon, Steve. After we accept Christ, we need to be baptized in water to show people around us which way we are going. When a Christian goes down under the water, he is showing everyone watching that his old sinful life is over. He is demonstrating that his sins were completely removed when he became a follower of Jesus Christ.

When he comes up out of the water, he is showing the world that when his sins were taken away he became a new person, living a new life in Christ.

Dad nodded, "Since water baptism is a picture of having been saved, it doesn't make sense for someone to be baptized if he has not been saved, does it? Will water baptism make an unsaved person into a Christian?
Steve thought for minute, "I don't see how it could. I remember what I learned in Sunday School about becoming a Christian. It's as easy as A-B-C. 'You ask forgiveness for your sins, believe Jesus died to pay for your sins, and confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior.'"

"Right," agreed Dad. "Water baptism can never save anyone from their sins because it is a picture of what has already happened once a person has repented of their sins and asked Jesus to be their Savior and Lord. Water baptism is one of the ways we confess Christ to others as a sign to the world that this has happened."

Steve picked up his bike ordinance pamphlet. "Hey! I get it now! The hand signals are not really turning, but they represent turning – they are a picture of the turn I am going to make."

"Right again," encouraged Dad. "How does that compare to water baptism?"

"Water baptism is not really dying to sin, it's not really having our sins washed away, and it's not living a new life either. It sure is a neat picture of all of those things though, isn't it?

"It shows which way you are going," added Mom.

"Baptism really shows something else too," said Dad. "Remember when Jesus died on the cross, was buried, then rose again?"

"I know!" said Steve. "Jesus died and was buried; that's going under the water. He rose from the dead; that's coming up out of the water!"
"Very good!" congratulated Dad."

"I get it!" said Steve. "Water baptism is a picture that represents what Jesus died for me and shows the world which way I am going — that I am going to live for Jesus. That is one ordinance I'm going to obey!"

Application and Testimony for Water Baptism

Bring this **completed** application and testimony form to the 9:00 a.m. baptism class the Sunday before your baptism.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _(_____)_____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) _____/_____/_____

"I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord and desire to follow Him in water baptism by immersion. I understand that this baptism is not equivalent to joining this church and does not obligate me to become a member. Rather, it is the answer of a good conscience toward God." (1 Peter 2:21)

_____
(candidate signature)

Written Testimony

Life Before:

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_____

Salvation Experience:

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Life Since:

_____

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