

Preparing for Baptism

■ We're Excited for You!

Your decision to turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important decision you will ever make. Following your personal commitment to submit your life to the Lordship of Christ, an important next step in your spiritual journey is to be obedient in believer's baptism. This will be a special moment in your life, and your faith family, The Church at Brook Hills, looks forward to worshipping and celebrating with you at your baptism. This document has been prepared to outline for you the steps you need to take in preparing for your baptism.

■ Understand the Meaning of Baptism

According to the Bible, baptism:

- ▶ Publicly demonstrates your identification with Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:4-5; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12). You are showing the work of Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection—and your participation in that work by God's grace.
- ▶ Visibly declares your deliverance from the judgment of God (1 Peter 3:18-21).
- ▶ Displays your union with Christ's body, His Church (Acts 2:26-41; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:3-6).
- ▶ Follows both the example (Matthew 3:13-17) and the command of Christ (Matthew 28:19).

Thus, baptism is a celebration of the grace of Christ in your life that has occurred through salvation. It is an external celebration of an internal transformation. We are celebrating what God has done by his grace.

■ Prepare Your Testimony

At your baptism, you will have the opportunity to publicly share with your church family and the world your personal decision to submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The goal of this time is to share how God's grace was made evident in your life through a personal response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prior to preparing a summary of what you will say, take some time to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your words so that all those who will be present at your baptism will hear and respond to the gospel. Your recounting of the gospel can actually lead another person to trust in Christ.

The questions below will help you write a testimony that you will share at your baptism. Don't be nervous! Once you have written your testimony and returned it to the church office, we will laminate it so that you can take it into the baptistery with you and read straight from the card. This will be a powerful testimony to God's grace in your life.

What is your understanding of who God is? What is God like?

How did you come to the realization that you were guilty before God and separated from God? What separated you from God?
