

LESSON 11: BAPTISM



PURPOSE

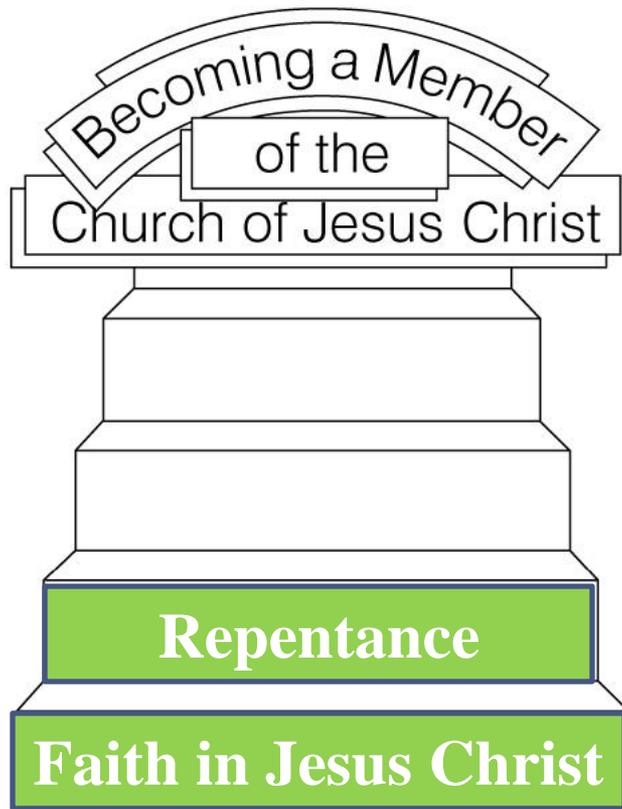
**To help each child better understand
the importance of baptism.**

**OUR OPENING PRAYER
WILL BE GIVEN BY**

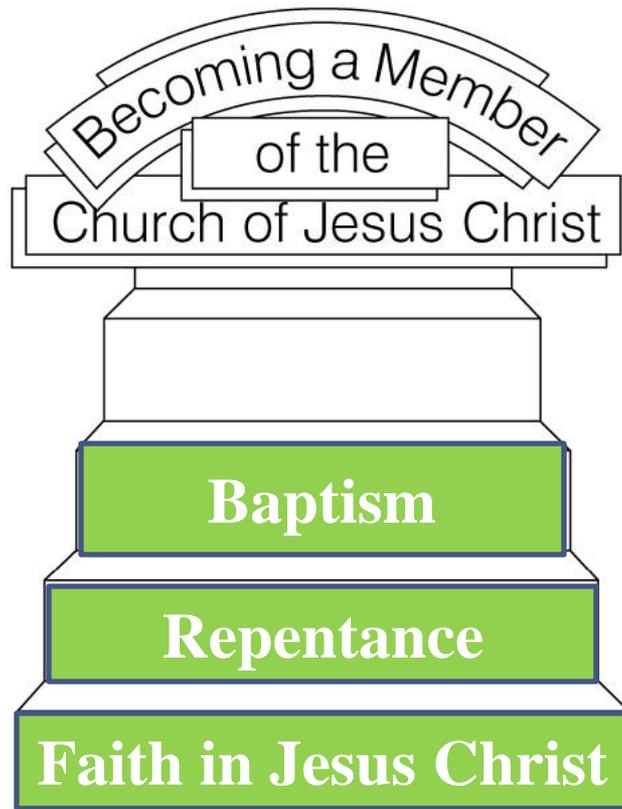


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Baptism



- **Baptism is the third step in becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.**



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- **Before you can be baptized, something important must happen.**
- **Listen to the words of this song about baptism.**
- **I'm going to leave out one word.**
- **See if you can tell what word is missing.**

**I like my birthdays, ev'ry one;
Each brings a greater joy to me.
But I can't wait until I'm _____,
For then I'll be baptized, you see.**

▣ **What is the missing word?**

▣ **Eight (8)**

▣ **We look forward to all of our birthdays, but our eighth birthday has special meaning because it means that we are old enough to be baptized.**

- **Heavenly Father has commanded everyone to be baptized.**
- **Jesus Christ wanted to obey all of Heavenly Father's commandments.**

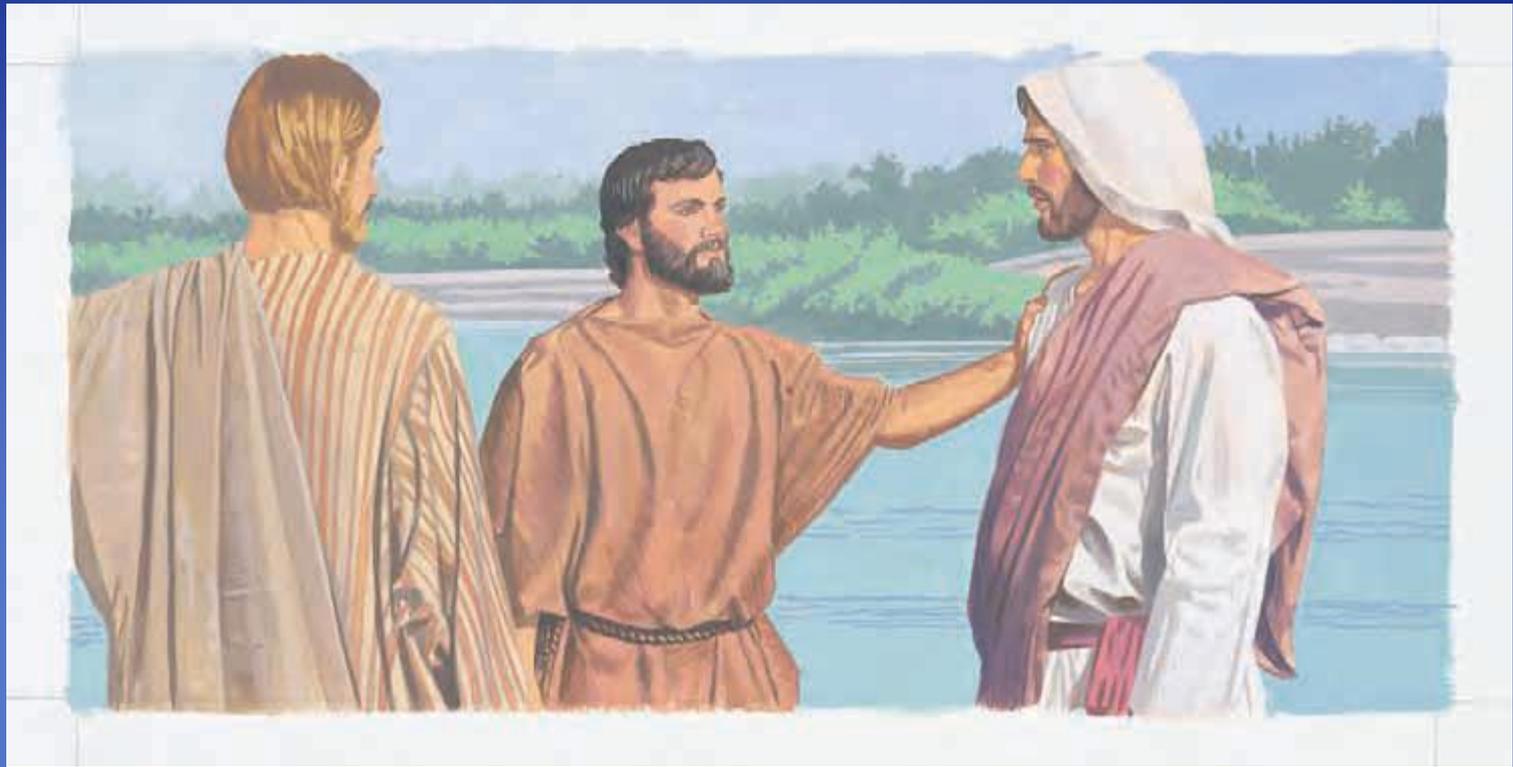
**In 2 Nephi
9:23 we
read:**

**And he
commandeth**

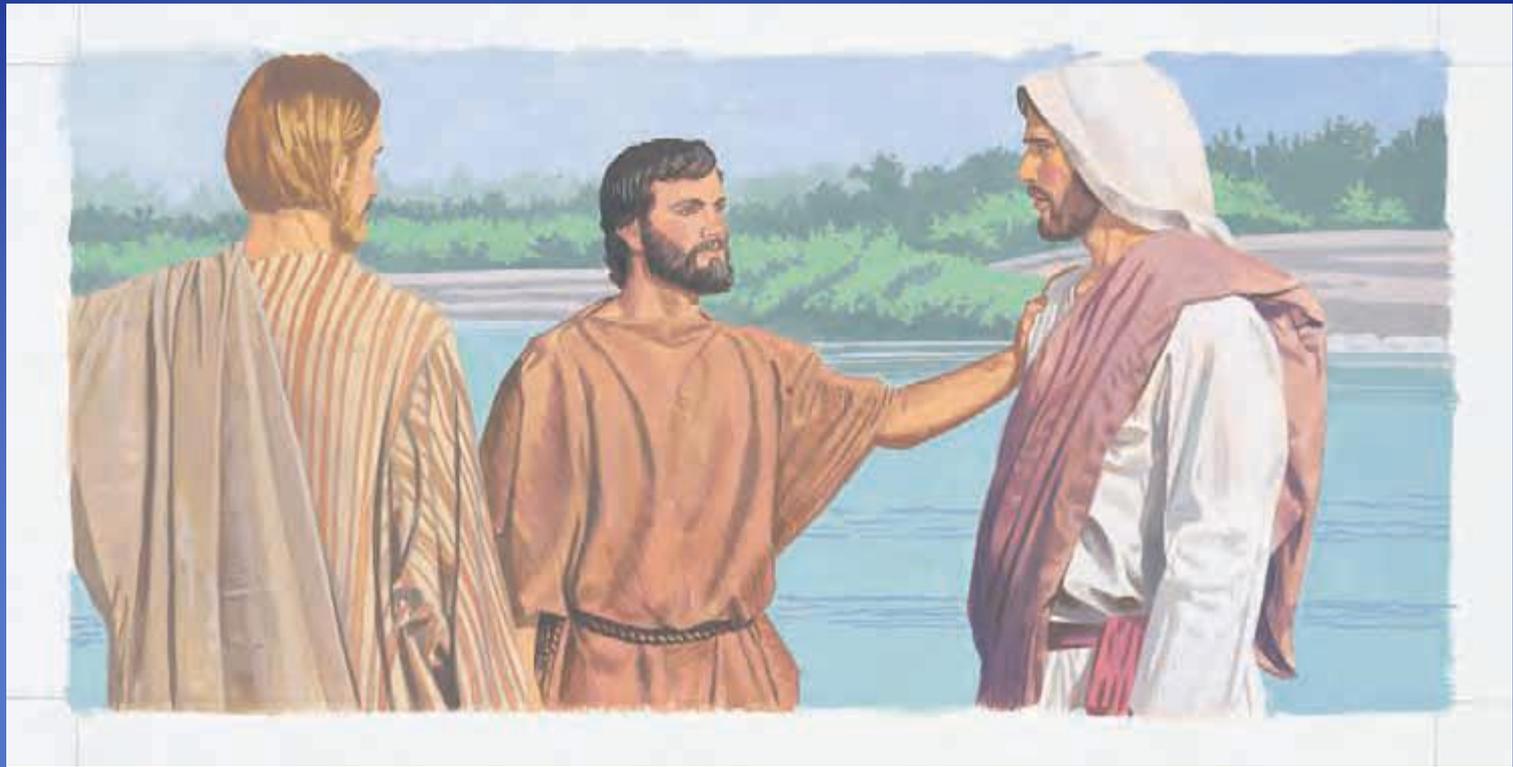
**all men that they must ^arepent, and be
^bbaptized in his name, having perfect
^cfaith in the Holy One of Israel, or they
cannot be saved in the kingdom of
God.**



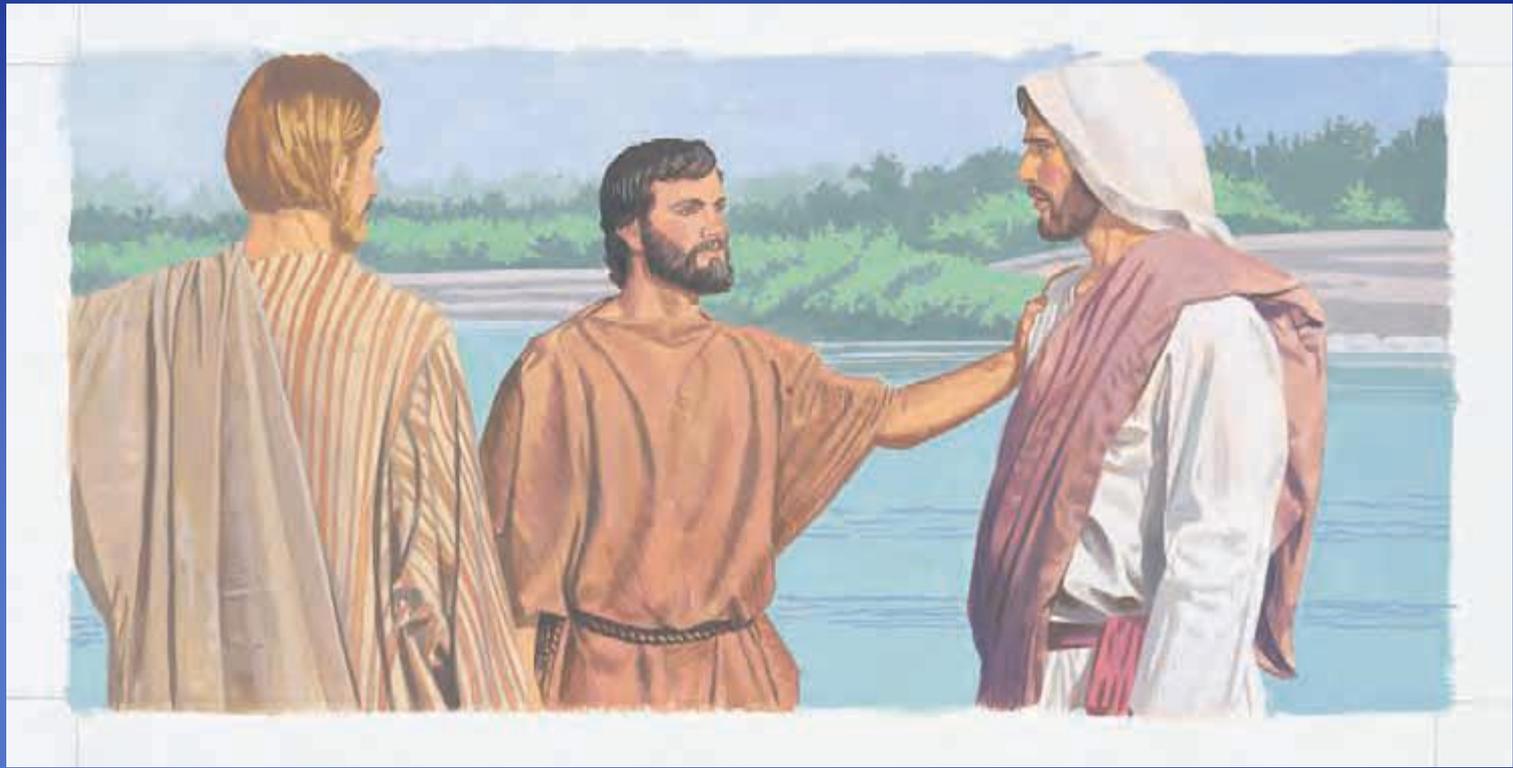
- **The Holy One of Israel is another name for Jesus Christ.**
- **This scripture tells us that we are commanded to be baptized.**
- **The scripture also tells us that if we are not baptized, we cannot be saved in the kingdom of God; in other words, we must be baptized to live again with Heavenly Father and Jesus.**



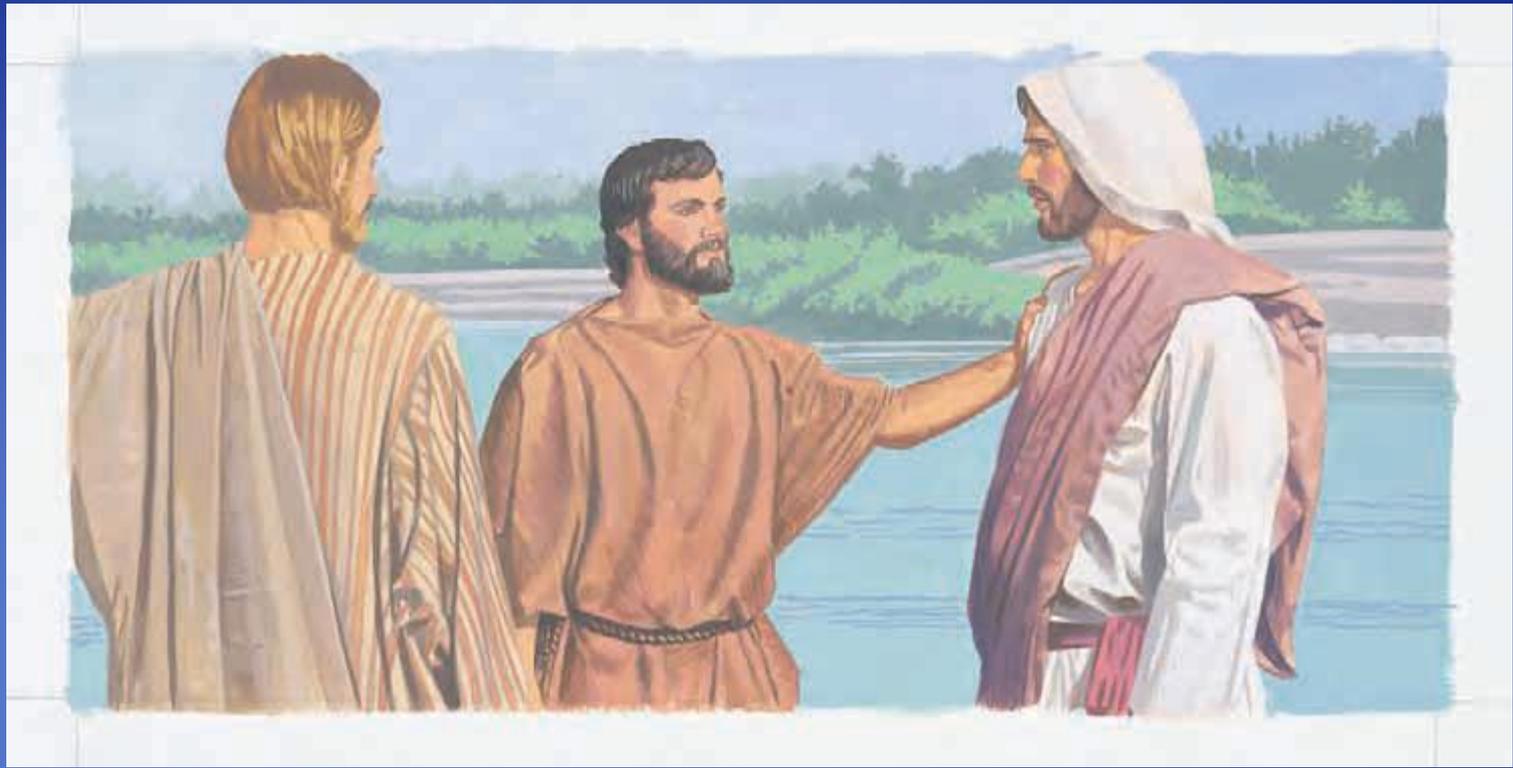
■ One day when John the Baptist was baptizing people in the Jordan River, Jesus Christ came to him



■ **Jesus came to John the Baptist because John had the priesthood authority to baptize.**



- **He asked John to baptize Him.**
- **John knew that Jesus had always obeyed God's commandments and did not need to repent.**



▣ John thought that Jesus did not need to be baptized.

▣ Jesus set an example for us by obeying God's commandment to be baptized.



■ **But God had commanded all people to be baptized, so Jesus told John to baptize Him.**

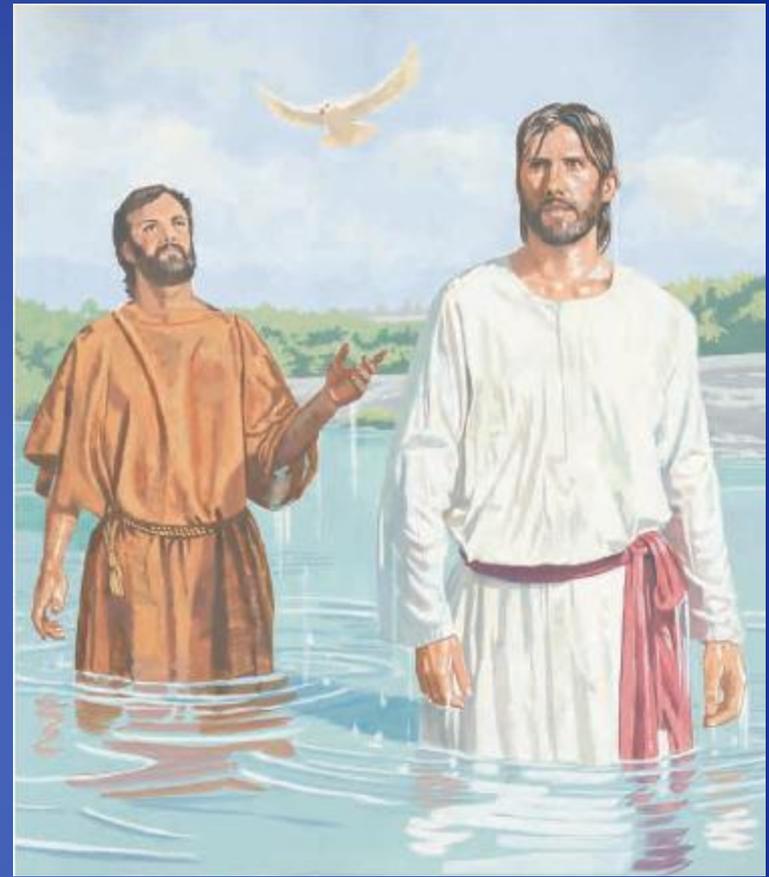


▣ Jesus set an example for us by obeying God's commandment to be baptized.



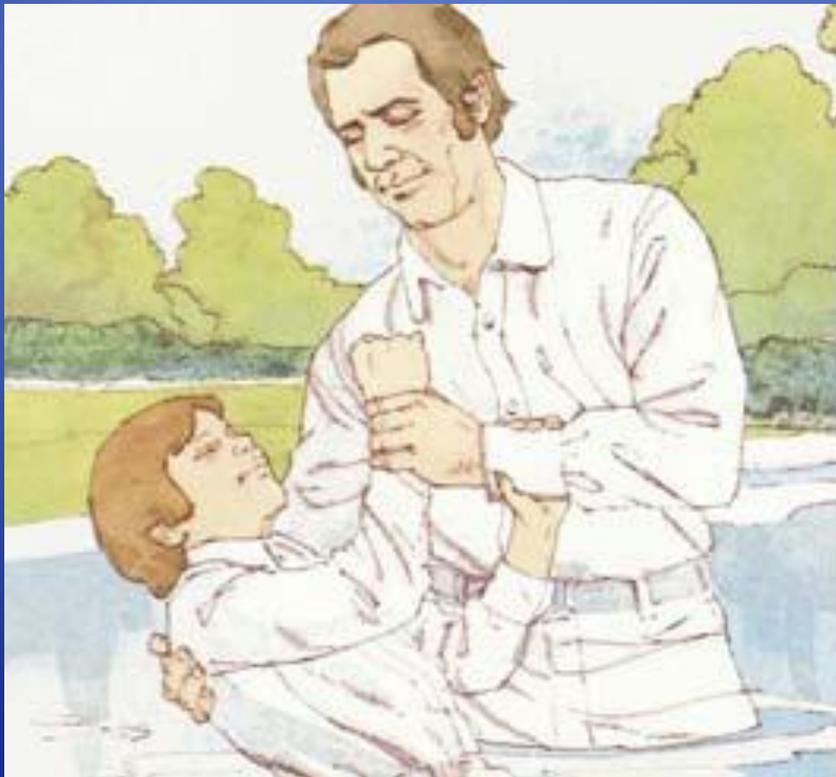
■ When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Ghost came to Him.

■ God spoke from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



■ John the Baptist also testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

□ Explain that to be baptized by being completely covered by water and coming back up out of the water is called baptism by immersion.



□ Can you say “*baptism by immersion.*”

I Like My Birthdays

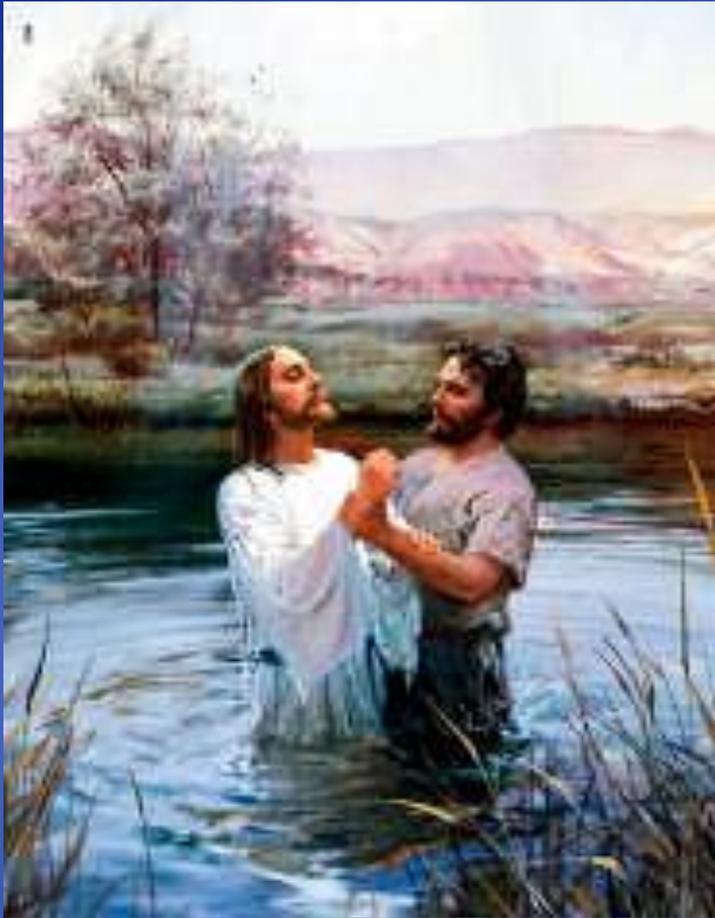
- 1. I like my birthdays, ev'ry one;
Each brings a greater joy to me.
But I can't wait until I'm eight,
For then I'll be baptized, you see.
- 2. To be baptized as Jesus was
By one who holds the priesthood true
And thus obey God's holy laws
Is just the thing I want to do.
- 3. When hands are laid upon my head,
Then I'll receive the Holy Ghost.
And, if I listen carefully,
I'll have the blessing I need most.

Words: Wallace F. Bennett, 1898–1993

Music: Tracy Y. Cannon, 1879–1961

- ▣ What is “the thing I want to do,” according to this song?
- ▣ Be baptized, “as Jesus was.”
 - ▣ How will we be baptized if we are baptized the same way Jesus was?
 - ▣ By immersion and by someone with priesthood authority.





■ **Explain that when Jesus Christ was baptized, he was immersed or completely covered with water.**



□ Explain that when Jesus Christ was baptized, he was immersed or completely covered with water.

□ Today, baptisms usually take place in a meetinghouse in a special pool of water called a baptismal font.



▣ **If there isn't a baptismal font nearby, streams or other pools of water are used.**

▣ **What authority did John the Baptist have to baptize?**

▣ **The Aaronic Priesthood.**



▣ **What authority must the person who is baptizing us have to baptize?**

▣ **He must be a priest in the Aaronic**

Priesthood or hold the Melchizedek Priesthood.



▣ **Do you know anyone who has the priesthood and can baptize?**

- **When Joseph Smith was translating the Book of Mormon with Oliver Cowdery, John the Baptist came to them and taught them the correct way to baptize.**



- **He gave them the priesthood so that they had the authority to baptize others.**



- **The priesthood has been given to other people so that we can have the privilege of being baptized by someone with the proper authority.**



▣ The person who baptizes each of them will have the same priesthood that John the Baptist had.

▣ The **fifth article of faith** tells us how a man receives this authority.



Let's read the fifth article of faith.

“We believe that a man must be called of God ... by those who are in authority.”

The Ordinance of Baptism



- In this picture, notice the position of the hands.
- When you are baptized, you and the man baptizing you will go down into the baptismal font.
- The man baptizing you holds your right arm with his left hand.

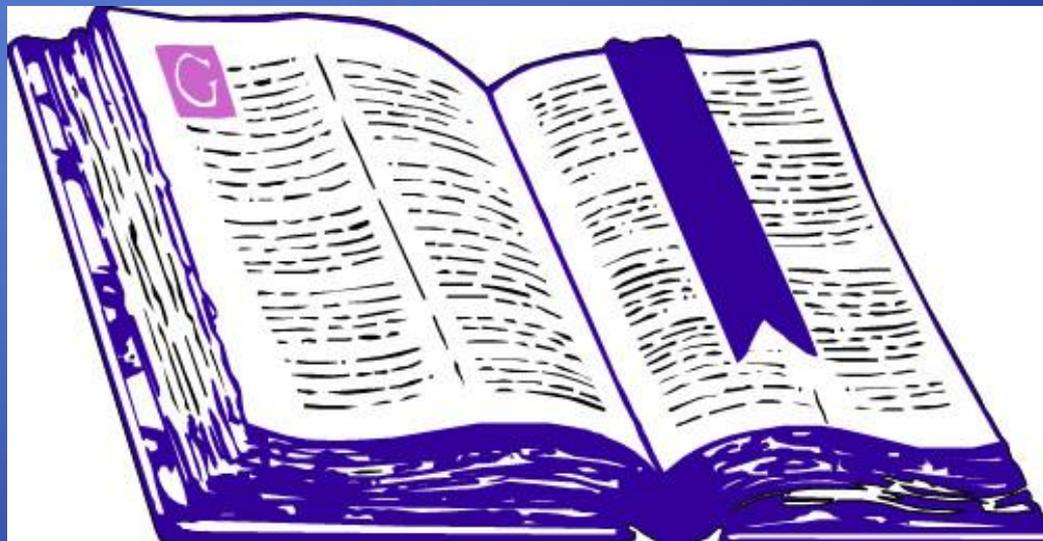
The Ordinance of Baptism



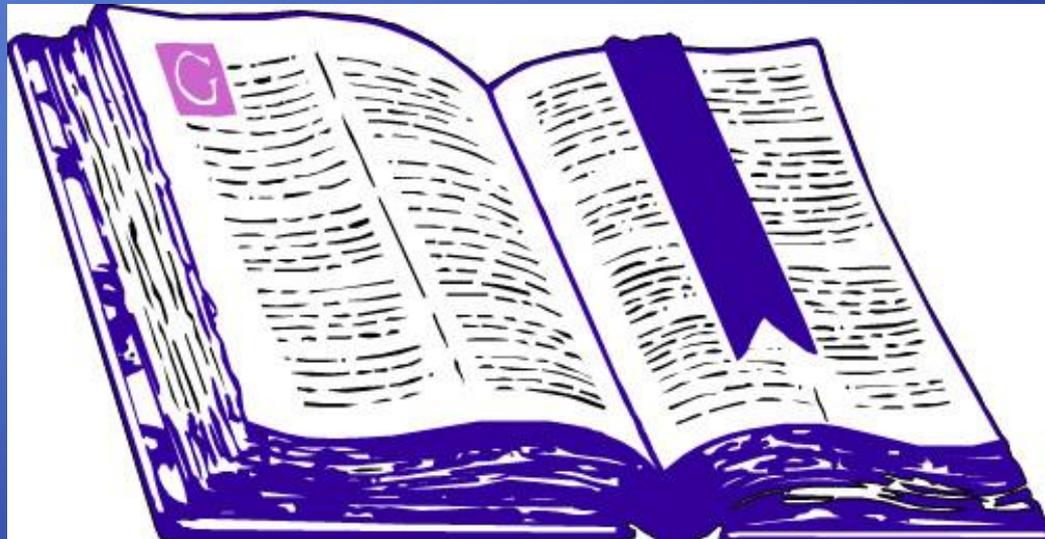
- You can hold your nose with your right hand and with your left hand hold on to the left arm of the man baptizing you.
- The man baptizing you will then raise his right hand and say the words of the baptismal prayer.

▣ The baptismal prayer is found in the scriptures.

▣ Listen to these words found in Doctrine and Covenants 20:73, starting with the words “Having been commissioned.”

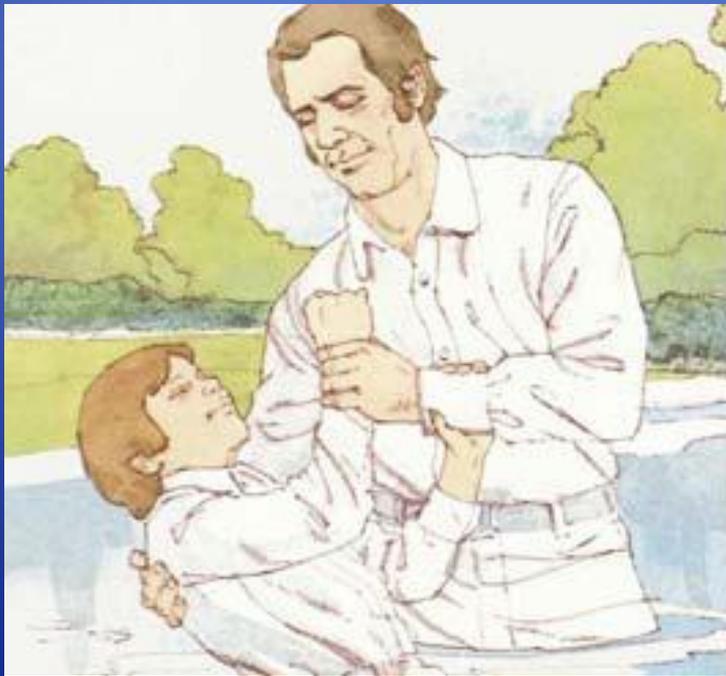


“...Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”



- ▣ *“Commissioned* means “given authority to represent.”
- ▣ A true baptism is performed only by someone who has been given the authority to represent Jesus Christ in performing the baptism.
- ▣ Their baptism will have the same value as if Jesus himself had baptized them.

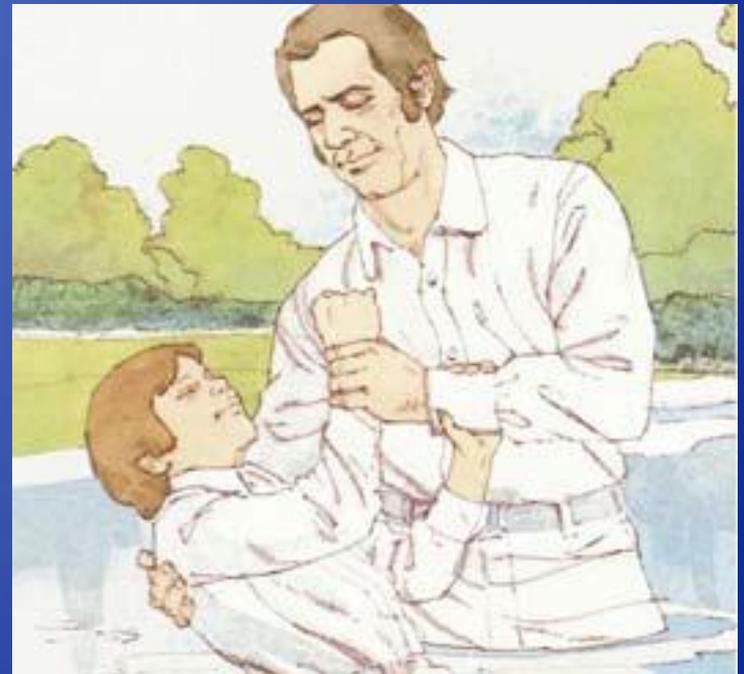
■ After saying the prayer, the man who is baptizing puts his right hand on the person's back and gently lowers him into the water until the water completely covers him.



■ Then he lifts the person up out of the water.

▣ You are only under water for a short time and that the man baptizing them will hold them firmly.

▣ They will hold his arm and will be able to hold their noses so they won't breathe or swallow any water.



- **Would anyone like to share their baptism experiences with the rest of the class?**

We Are Happy When We Are Baptized

- Let's review what we have learned about the important step of baptism.
- How old are we when we may be baptized?
 - **Eight**
- Why should we be baptized?
 - **It is a commandment**
- Where will we be baptized?
 - **In a baptismal font or other pool of water**

We Are Happy When We Are Baptized

- What must a man have to be able to baptize?
 - **The priesthood**
- How will we be baptized?
 - **By immersion**
- Why do you think you will feel happy when you are baptized?

We Are Happy When We Are Baptized

- **You will be happy to be members of Jesus Christ's Church, you will be happy to know you are following his example, and you will be happy to obey his commandments.**

Story

Listen to this story about a girl who wanted to be baptized:

“When Alice’s mother and sisters decided to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Alice was only six and too young to be baptized with the rest of her family. ... Because they often talked of the wonderful experience of baptism and the joy their membership in the Church had brought them, Alice could hardly wait to be eight so she could be baptized too.”



Story

- “Alice planned and dreamed how she would be baptized on her birthday. ‘Not sometime after,’ she insisted, ‘but on that very day.’



“However, three days before Alice turned eight, she awoke with a severe headache, and the next day she was too ill to go to school.

“The doctor who was called said she would have to stay home and in bed for at least a week. Alice’s big eyes filled with tears of disappointment.

Story

But she stopped at the door when she saw Alice kneeling in fervent prayer on her bed. This little girl was pleading with Heavenly Father for fulfillment of her great desire to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



“On the morning of her birthday, Alice got up, dressed, and prepared for baptism. Her fever was gone and she felt well and happy. Some hours later her mother checked Alice’s temperature again and it still registered normal.

Story

[Heavenly Father] had answered Alice's sincere prayer. That evening she was baptized!"



- How would you have felt if you had been Alice?
- You may not be baptized exactly on their birthday but rather on a day soon after their eighth birthday; usually there is one baptismal date each month for all children in a ward or stake.

- ▣ You will be interviewed by the bishop or branch president before they are baptized.
- ▣ Baptisms will usually take place on a Saturday before Fast Sunday.
- ▣ I hope that you will have the same happy feeling that Alice had when you are baptized.

Enrichment Activity 2

- Let's review the steps we need to take to prepare for baptism.
- Attend Primary and sacrament meeting each week.
- Learn about the scriptures.
- Be honest.
- Pray daily.
- Pay tithing.
- Be kind to family and friends.

Enrichment Activity 2

- **Follow Jesus Christ's example.**
- **Be eight years old.**
- **Be interviewed by the bishop or branch president.**

Enrichment Activity 3

- We have invited **Brother _____**,
who holds the Melchizedek
Priesthood to come to our class
today to show you what will take
place at your baptism.

Testimony

I want to testify to you that baptism is a necessary step in our return to our father in Heaven.

It is a commandment that we should be happy to follow.

It is the start of the straight and narrow path that leads us back to our Heavenly father.

**OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL
BE GIVEN BY**



(Enter Name Here)

THE END

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