

Reflecting on Baptism

Baptism is a special and personal step in your spiritual journey.

It's a way to celebrate the love you've experienced from God and publicly acknowledge how that love is shaping your life. Like all symbols, it is not magic or meant to make you perfect, but **it can be powerful as a part of your spiritual journey.**

Baptism can mean different things to different people:

- **A New Beginning:** Stepping into a fresh start, embracing a new chapter filled with God's love. Turning away from the other “false” loves that didn't bring true life. In this way, baptism is a symbol of being cleansed and refreshed.
- **A Declaration of Discipleship (Following Jesus):** Acting out baptism, like Jesus did, can symbolize your desire to follow Jesus in all things and live a life rooted in the love and teaching of Jesus.
- **An Affirmation of Belonging:** Recognizing that you are a beloved child of God, embracing the love that's always been there. Baptism can symbolize being “reborn” with the understanding of your place in God's family.

What does Baptism mean for you?

Reflection Questions:

(You're encouraged to take the time to write down your answers for future you.)

1. **When have you felt God's love in your life?**

How have you felt loved, supported, or cared for— through people, experiences, or moments of God's presence?

2. **How has knowing God's love changed you?**

Reflect on how feeling loved by God has influenced the way you see yourself and others. Have you noticed any changes in how you think, feel, or act?

3. **What does following Jesus mean to you?**

Jesus showed us how to live with love, kindness, and compassion. How do his teachings inspire you? In what ways do you try to follow his example in your daily life?

4. **Why are you choosing to be baptized?**

Consider what makes this step meaningful for you right now. How does baptism symbolize your relationship with God and your desire to live a life filled with love?

5. **How might this experience support you on your journey ahead?**

Baptism is a moment to remember, but its significance continues. How do you hope this experience will encourage you as you move forward? What will help you stay connected to God's love and the path you're choosing?

Final Thought

Baptism is a celebration and public declaration of God's love that's always been there. It's not about being perfect; it's about embracing your identity as a beloved child of God and choosing to follow the way of love that Jesus taught. Whether it feels like stepping into something new or affirming a truth you've always known, **this moment is yours** to carry forward as your journey with God, reminding you of the love that surrounds you always.

We're Here for You!

If you have questions or would like to talk more about this step, please feel free to reach out. It's okay to have uncertainties. It is okay to say “not right now” to baptism. It's okay if this brings up things that you may need help to process, and we're here to support you on your journey in a way that feels right for you.