

# What Does Baptism Mean?

## Talking Points for Parents of Young Children

### What Does Baptism Mean?

- Baptism tells us that this baby is part of God's family.
- Everybody sins by thinking and doing things that God doesn't want us to do, or by NOT doing the things that God DOES want us to do. The water used in baptism reminds us that when Jesus died on the cross, God cleaned away all those sins.
- Baptism doesn't save us, though. Only Jesus saves us.

### When a Baby Is Baptized

- When we baptize a baby, we make promises.
  - God promises that the baby is part of God's family and that God's Spirit will help the baby learn about Jesus' love as he or she grows up.
  - Parents promise to do everything they can to help the baby learn about Jesus and what it means to be a child of God.
  - The whole church promises to help the baby learn about and love God too.
- Some day when this baby grows up and is able to make decisions, we pray that he or she will say "yes" to God.
- We are so excited that this baby is part of God's family!

### When an Older Child, Teen, or Adult Is Baptized

- If you know the history of why this person wasn't baptized as an infant, explain it in a positive, age-appropriate way.
  - Some churches think about baptism in a different way than our church does. They believe that people should wait to be baptized until they can say "yes" to God for themselves.
  - Some people don't grow up in Christian families, so they aren't baptized when they're little. People can be baptized at any age. They don't have to be babies.
- When an older person is baptized, we all promise to help him or her learn about and love God.
- We are so excited that this person is saying "yes" to God and that we can welcome him or her into God's family!