

## Baptism Worksheet

### I. Baptism at GCC

1. Be sure to invite family, friends, co-workers, etc. it's a great witness.
2. **Plan to arrive at the church no later than 6:15 pm.** Members of the baptism team will meet you and review this worksheet with you before the service.
3. **Please bring a towel, swimwear, sandals or water shoes and a waterproof bag to carry home wet items.**
4. We will supply you with a robe; be sure to remove anything you don't want to get wet like watches and exercise trackers!
5. You will be baptized "into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and into the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 8:16 & Acts 19:5).
6. Pastor Paul and one other will perform the baptism.
7. Cross your arms on your chest as you go under the water; if you wish, you can hold your nose shut with one hand. Expect to go completely under the water.
8. Please make sure that we have the exact spelling of your name, as you want it on your certificate and your email and phone number so we can reach you after.

### II. Why should we be baptized?

1. Jesus instructed his disciples to make disciples and to baptize them. (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. In baptism, we follow the example of Jesus. Jesus insisted on being baptized by John, who was preaching a baptism of repentance, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:13-17).
3. The three thousand, who accepted Peter's message, also set the example for us, in the early church. (Acts 2:41)

✓ **Do you want to be a disciple, or follower of Jesus?**

### III. Meaning of baptism

1. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change, that we are disciples, or followers, of Jesus Christ.
2. Before being baptized, you must confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, believe in your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and accept God's gift of

salvation, by grace, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans: 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; and 10:9)

✔ Do you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead?

✔ Have you Confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord?

3. Baptism with repentance signifies that we have already been forgiven of our sins. (Acts 2:38)

✔ Do you repent, or turn away from your sins, and commit to walking in a different direction; the direction that pleases God?

4. Baptism demonstrates that we are one with Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-11, Galatians 2:20)

5. Thus, it is a sign of death to our old life and the birth of a new creation, a new life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

6. Greek word baptizo means:

1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk).

2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash oneself, bathe.

3) to overwhelm

...so, we baptize by immersion in water.

7. The same word, “baptizo”, was also used in dying cloth and in making pickles:

To make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped'(bapto) in boiling water and then 'baptized' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution, but the first is temporary. The second, the act of *baptizing* the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g., Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!"

✔ Do you understand that you are about to be buried with Christ, as you are completely immersed in water, and that you will be raised up out of that water into new life, in Christ, as a new person, free from your past bondage of sin & death, able to walk with Jesus Christ, as a child of God?

✔ Think about how you would answer this question, in your own words: Why do you want to be baptized?