

Tips and Tricks to talking to Your Student about Faith and Baptism

Quick Links:

- [Baptism Website](#) (registration, videos and more)
 - [What is Baptism Video](#)
-

Talking to your student about baptism and faith can seem SCARY!
(Because it is!)

However, the truth is your student “learns” everyday about faith, life, and the world from their friends and social media.

Now more than ever, your student needs you to wade into the conversation with them.

Yes this is scary, but it is so worth it. Honestly a baptism event is a great opportunity for you to open the door and have this conversation about faith!

YOU CAN DO IT. WE CAN HELP.

Here are some tips and tricks to help you talk to your student about baptism and faith!

There is a great video called “[What is Baptism](#)” that you can use as a resource to answer any questions you or your student may have around baptism. We highly recommend watching that video together with your student if they are interested in or have questions about baptism!

This document is just a guide to help you have the conversation!

Now, on to the tips!

1. Set a time to talk about it. This might sound dumb, but sometimes when we spring a conversation onto students that they aren't ready for...it doesn't always go well! (I'm sure you can think of many examples of this ;)

Just like you may want time to prep for or get in the right mental space for this conversation, give students time to prep as well!

- So ask them to have the conversation! Say something like, *“Hey I just got an email from Mission about baptisms happening next week. Could we maybe talk about that later tonight after dinner? I'd love to hear what you think about it or if you are interested!”*

2. Remember, your job is to ask questions, not have answers. Your role as a parent or guardian IS NOT to have all of the answers to your student's questions....your role is to ask good questions, listen to what your student is saying, and then go on the journey of finding out the answers together!

- Talking about faith and baptism can seem like an impossible task when we think we need to know a bunch of information. Your goal is simply to have a conversation, then find out the information alongside your student!
- *HOW TO ASK THE INITIAL QUESTION:* so once you've set a time to talk to your student, you could say something like:
 - Is baptism something you think you'd be interested in?
 - Have you ever thought about if you'd want to get baptized some day?

3. The goal of this conversation is to talk about faith. Even if your student is not interested in getting baptized, use this opportunity to talk about faith and find out what they think!

- During the Middle and High School years, students are either consciously or unconsciously making decisions about God and faith in this season because their brain is developing at such an incredible rate. They are beginning to think about how the world works and wrestle with some really big questions!
- *FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:* So be sure to keep the conversation going by asking some of these questions:
 - **If your student is interested in baptism:**
 - Do you know what baptism is and what it means?
 - What makes you want to get baptized?
 - What is it about Jesus/God that makes you want to give your life to him?
 - **If your student IS NOT interested in baptism:**
 - 1) First of all, if your student isn't interested in being baptized and they voiced that to you....don't be mad or alarmed! That is a HUGE sign that your student feels safe to be real around you! Be sure to say something like, "Thanks for being real with me" or "That's okay that you don't wanna do it...I think it's really cool that you want to take this seriously."
 - 2) Another important thing to remember....if your student has questions about faith, **IT DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE FAILED.** This conversation is not a reflection of your parenting and questions don't mean failure or a lack of faith. It just means that your student is going on the journey of owning their own faith so be sure to encourage questions rather than discourage them.
 - Then ask one or two of the following questions:

- Do most of the people at your school believe in or follow Jesus?
 - i. After their answer ask, “What do you think about that?”
- Why do you think some of the people you know at school don’t believe in or follow Jesus?
- **What do you think about following Jesus?**
Does it seem like it’s something that is kinda outdated and irrelevant? Or is it something that just doesn’t really seem to affect your everyday life? Is it something you just don’t think about much?
 - i. I think this “What do you think about following Jesus?” questions is a GREAT one, you just have to give them some options sometimes to help them express what they think about it. So asking things like, does it seem outdated and irrelevant, does it not seem to apply to everyday life or do you just not think much about it helps them think through what they think!

4. Remember, this is a conversation, not a lecture. Let your student be the one to steer the direction of the conversation after you’ve asked a question! Make sure they are talking more than you are talking. And let them read, watch videos and learn about it with and alongside of you!

- Even if you know the answer to their question, try having them read something or watch something to help them learn to think critically on their own!

- Here are some GREAT verses and talking points/questions about baptism:
 - [Romans 5:8](#) -- what does it mean to be a sinner? Why is it significant that God would die for sinners?
 - [Romans 6:4](#) // [Romans 10:9-10](#) -- what does this verse say that you need to do in order to be saved?
- So what exactly is Baptism?
 - [Be sure to watch this video with your Student!](#)
- If your student has more questions about faith, here are a few books we'd recommend!
 - Case for Christ by Lee Strobel ([book or documentary on Amazon](#))
 - [Crazy Love by Francis Chan](#)
 - [Who is This Man by John Ortberg](#)
 - [Irresistible by Andy Stanley](#)

5. Pray before you say. This has really just become a good rule of life for me! But before you open up this conversation with your student, ask God to help you! Ask him to lead you, guide you and give you wisdom before you jump into this conversation!

6. Ask for help! If your student asks questions or the conversation goes to a place where you didn't expect and you don't know what to do....ask for help! We'd love to help you navigate this conversation with your students!

- Shoot us an email at students@missionventura.com and we'll jump in the conversation with you!

So now it's your turn.

Your student needs you to wade into the faith conversation with them.

YOU CAN DO IT.

God has called you to be their parent. He has equipped you with his spirit and with a community of people to lean into as you help foster your student's faith. Now it's your turn to take a step of faith and wade into the conversation. **YOU GOT THIS!**

1 Timothy 1:7 -- For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.