



A GUIDE FOR BAPTIZERS

*Jesus told us in the Great Commission, not just to be baptized,
but to be baptizers!*
Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction

Baptism is an important step in any follower of Jesus' life. We often compare it to a wedding ceremony: it is the outward celebration of something that is intensely personal and spiritual. Just as people invite many friends and family to their wedding...one should have a large invitation list for their baptism, because this is a vow before God as well!

One's baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality. That outward ceremony ought to be special and customized for each person...to reflect their wishes. At the same time, there are some basic components which should be a part of that time.

Explanation of Baptism

This is for those gathered. It provides a great place to share the Good News message which is the catalyst for any baptism. It also allows you to clarify:

- 1) that baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality
- 2) that baptism doesn't save an individual
- 3) that the water is not "holy" or "special" water and
- 4) that the act of baptism is an act of obedience to our Lord's command.

The Confession of the Person to be Baptized

"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven. But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33 *NLT*

Just like Jesus said in the passage above, those who follow Jesus need to share openly and publicly about their commitment to follow Him. That's an opportunity that should be offered at one's baptism.

[More>>](#)

Typically we do that by four questions to ask during a baptism—typically in interview style when everyone is in the water:

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself...
2. How did you connect with Los Altos Grace?
3. How did you come to know Jesus personally?
4. Why do you want to be baptized today?

It's good to affirm this confession again with a statement something like:

So it is your desire to tell these witnesses and the whole world that you want to follow Jesus—as your personal Savior and Lord. This Jesus who came to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for your sins and rose again on the third day to defeat sin and death so that you could have life eternal. If so, answer by saying “I do.”

When the person says “I do,” then ask them to kneel down in the water.

Then the baptizer says:

“Based on your profession of faith (the cue for grabbing the nose)...

I baptize you in the name of the Father (dunk), in the name of the Son (dunk) and in the name of the Holy Spirit (dunk).”

Then grab a towel for the person...

Then invite all those gathered to join you in prayer, and pray for the individual...

After the prayer, encourage everyone to applaud for the person and then greet them afterwards!

[More Details>>](#)

Items To Bring to the Time of the Baptism:

You won't be going under the water, but you'll still be getting a bit wet..

- Black or solid dark shirt (that could get wet)
- Swimsuit or shorts (modest, to get wet)
- Flip-flops
- Towel
- Change of clothes (for after baptism, don't forget under garments, shoes/socks)
- Makeup
- Deodorant/cologne/perfume

Please Be Prepared to lead the person you are baptizing through the experience:

- You can consult the Baptism Candidates Guide to help them (at LosAltosGrace.org/baptism)
- Making sure they are inviting their friends and family!
- Meeting & praying with them before hand to talk through things
- Affirming that this is an important step, but that there is much more growing to do in their relationship with God -- Up, In, Out!
- How you will dunk them in the water
- The 4 questions you will ask for their testimony
 1. Tell us a little bit about yourself...
 2. How did you connect with Los Altos Grace?
 3. How did you come to know Jesus personally?
 4. Why do you want to be baptized today?

You may consider giving the person you are baptizing a special gift to encourage their continued spiritual growth -- a Bible, a Discipleship book, something special to your relationship, etc.