



SALVATION, BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS

Our desire as a church is to do everything possible to equip parents to disciple their children towards a clear understanding of the gospel, God's work of conversion, and the evidences of grace that are present in the life of a believer.

We believe that conversion, baptism, church membership, and the Lord's Supper (also referred to as communion) are all important elements in building spiritually healthy people. Therefore, we have developed a process for bringing all of these elements together for children in elementary school through the 8th grade.

WHAT WILL THE PROCESS DO?

HELP PARENTS This process helps you by letting you take the lead in the discipleship of your children and equipping you with resources to do so. It also helps you to discern God's work of conversion in the life of your child.

HELP CHILDREN This process helps children by letting them hear the gospel clearly and learn healthy patterns of discipleship. It also helps protect children from false security and future doubts that may arise from a weak discipleship process.

HELP THE CHURCH This process brings together conversion, baptism, church membership, and the Lord's Supper for everyone while developing healthy disciples.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

When your child expresses deep interest in salvation and baptism or has indicated that they have come to repent and place their faith in Jesus, you should contact the appropriate staff member (Josh Hussung for youth boys, Savannah Seibold for youth girls, or Jason Miller for children) concerning the baptism preparation process.

The staff member will arrange a meeting with you and your child to discuss your child's desire to be a follower of Christ. A discipleship resource will be provided for you to walk through with your child in order to help them develop healthy habits of discipleship. A new member class for children will be provided to help your child understand the connection between their faith and membership in the local body of believers. A church covenant will also be sent home to be completed and returned by your child (as is required for all people seeking baptism and church membership). Once the elders have received and approved this covenant, baptism can be scheduled.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I learn more about walking my child through salvation, baptism, church membership, and the Lord's Supper?

An audio recording of a discipleship gathering for this topic can be found at gccnashville.org/GraceChildren.

What if my child is already baptized?

If your child has already been baptized by immersion as a believer in Christ, contact the appropriate staff member to discuss how to proceed in pursuing church membership.

Should my child take the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. As a baptist congregation, we believe that baptism is the public profession of faith. Therefore, for the purpose of discipleship, we recommend that children wait to take the Lord's Supper until after they have been baptized. An audio recording of a discipleship gathering for this topic can be found at gccnashville.org/GraceChildren.

Once my child is a member, will they be able to vote in church affirmations?

Voting eligibility for members at Grace begins upon entering the 9th grade.

What happens if we determine through the process that my child is not ready?

We realize that every child is unique and that God's timing is not the same for everyone. Because of this, we will work with you to determine what action is best for your child.

My child is not yet ready for the process. Are there any resources that can help me think about this in the meantime?

- *Your Child's Profession of Faith* by Dennis Gundersen
- *The Faith of a Child* by Art Murphy

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Miller (jmiller@gccnashville.org), Josh Hussung (jhussung@gccnashville.org), or Savannah Seibold (sseibold@gccnashville.org) at 615-377-8997. We are happy to discuss any issue with you.



GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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