

Kid Zone

Guide 5



New from the
Inside OUT

“Want to have some real fun at work today?” Ryan’s mischievous eyes danced like flashing Christmas lights.

“What have you got up your sleeve this time?” Marty asked, doubting they could have “real fun” heaving trash into a garbage truck.

“Check it out!” Ryan dumped a box of art supplies on the table.

“So?” Marty was confused.

“So let’s decorate the garbage truck today. I got the leftover supplies from my uncle’s wedding. Check it out—streamers, posters, balloons, the works!”

“But what about the boss?”

“Bob just laughed when I told him. But he said we’ve got to prep the truck before we clock in.”

“We had better hurry up, then.”

Ryan and Marty worked like ants on fast forward. They entangled the vehicle in a spider web of streamers. They slapped up a dozen “Just married” signs. By the time they finished, the truck looked like a rolling fireworks display.

All day long onlookers honked and waved. “Nice rig!” a mail carrier yelped. Even a police officer enjoyed a hearty laugh. “Congratulations!” he announced through the tinny loudspeaker on his car. For Ryan and Marty, that sweltering day in Columbus, Ohio, was the highlight of their summer.



But in spite of all their decorating, everyone knew it was still a garbage truck. The décor was fun, but it didn't fool anyone.

“Garbage truck” Christians

Sometimes, people try to “decorate” themselves in a similar way. They do lots of good things, but no matter how much they advertise how holy they are, it's like decorating a garbage truck. For someone to be a true Christian, there's got to be a conversion—which means a complete change. When Jesus enters your life, it is like you change vehicles and drive the opposite direction. In a sense, you become a new person.

Jesus gave us a special ceremony called baptism as a way to show this total change that happens inside.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What three-letter word describes people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior?

As we become closer friends with Jesus, we tap into the power of His death and resurrection. This power then changes us into the kind of people God wants us to be. It's a power that is stronger than anything you have ever seen. It's the power of Jesus in you!

The Bible talks about this power in Romans 6:3-4. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

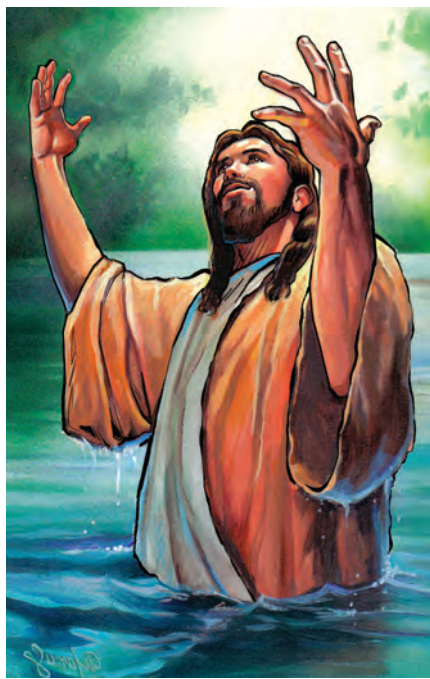
Baptism means being put under the water to show we are starting a new life in Jesus. Back when the Bible was written, readers understood that baptism marked a total change. The word "baptize" was used to describe dunking cloth into dye. The fabric came out a different color. The Bible states that, in a similar way, at baptism a different person rises out of the water.

Discovering the meaning of baptism

Baptism is not about covering up sin—it's a celebration of the change in a sinner. This change is possible only through

Jesus, who **died**, was **buried**, then **rose** from the dead. Check out this statement from 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 and circle the references made to these three events in Jesus' life. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and . . . He was buried, and . . . He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Baptism was so important to Jesus that He was baptized—even though He was perfect.



2. Read Matthew 3:13-17 and try to imagine what the scene was like. Jot some notes on what you think the event . . .

looked like:

smelled like:

sounded like:

John 3:23 says that John was baptizing people where "there was much water." The reason "much water was needed" was because the person was put all the way under the water. As we learned, the word *baptize* means "to dip under."

Here's what we've learned so far: Baptism marks a radical change in our lives. Baptism symbolizes Jesus' death, burial,



and resurrection. The word *baptize* actually means “to put under.”

It makes sense that we, too, should be baptized by being placed completely under the water rather than just being sprinkled with water.

Confessions of a Messed-Up Teen

“Excuse me, Pastor.” The young woman cornered me in the crowded church lobby. “I want to be baptized.”

“That’s . . . um . . . wonderful!” I stammered. “Uh . . . , I should know you, but . . .”

“Oh, I’m Candie. I’ve been coming to your church, and I’d like to become a member.”

“Great!”

Later that week I met with Candie. It was clear that she understood the meaning of her decision. So I offered my usual invitation: “Would you like to say anything to the congregation before I lower you into the water?”

“Sure.”

Sabbath morning I stood with Candie in the baptismal tank. She was prepared to tell her story. I, on the other hand, was not prepared for her story.

Her opening words hushed the noises in the sanctuary.

“My dad disappeared before I can remember him. My mom was an alcoholic. My brother attempted suicide. My story is smeared with physical abuse, drug abuse . . .”

I had never seen the members so attentive—certainly not during



any of my sermons! Candie's story was sad, yet she spoke with confidence and honesty.

"But that's all behind me now," she continued. "That old person will drown at the bottom of this tank. God tells me that I will rise a new creation. If God's grace can cover me, then He can save anyone!"

With that, I momentarily buried Candie under the water, symbolizing Christ's death. As she exploded out of the water, the church members applauded for five minutes.

Now since I don't want you to think Candie's story is any different than yours or mine, let me remind you that we all come to our baptism as sinners. It is only by God's cleansing grace that we can find forgiveness and freedom from our sins. All we have to do is acknowledge His grace. And accept His gift. —Pastor Karl

Preparing for baptism

Listen to our Friend, Jesus, talk about baptism; it's clearly important to Him.

3. Find out what Jesus said in Mark 16:16 about the importance of baptism. What does this text say we should do before we are baptized?

Clearly, being baptized is an important way to show our love for Jesus. It shows that we have died to sin like Jesus died on the cross—and that we are buried as He was buried. It shows that we are washed of sin and rise from the waters empowered to live a new life in Jesus—just as Jesus rose from the dead.

Carson discovered this new life. After Carson accepted Jesus, the television programs he watched, the video games he played, and the websites he visited—all these things began to change. As Carson put it, “At my baptism, I handed over the remote control and let Jesus select the programs. Of course, I’m still tempted to mess up. But thanks to Jesus, I’m becoming more like Him.”

That’s how Jesus changes us from the inside out. As the symbol of baptism suggests, Jesus takes control of your life. He signs on as your closest Friend, and you become a new and clean creation in Christ!

It’s true. You can believe it. Jesus can make you new from the inside out. Why not choose to follow Him today?

Talking to God

Dear God, Only You can change me from a sinner to a follower of you. I want to be baptized to claim Your power and demonstrate my love for You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



SIGNATURE

DATE

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Scriptures are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted:

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