

Baptism Video Work Sheet

Crossroads Baptist Church

Congratulations!

We are so excited that you are taking this important step to follow the Lord in believer's baptism! Not only are you following the example of Jesus (Mt. 3:13-17), but you are publicly declaring your allegiance to the Lord! Baptism is a big step in the life of any person. We are proud of you for taking it seriously. This is such an important event in your growth as a believer. We want it to go as smoothly as possible.

Why a baptism video?

At Crossroads Baptist Church, we utilize baptism videos during our baptismal services. Why do we do that? First, there is a practical reason. Your baptism video distracts people as you climb into the baptistery. Second, your baptism video provides you with an opportunity to boast in the Lord concerning His salvation (Gal. 6:14, Psalm 34:2). You get to tell your story in your own words. I believe that God is greatly honored as you do that. Third, your baptism video helps the body of Christ at Crossroads to know you better. Even though it is a short video, it will help people to begin to identify you as a brother or sister in Christ and build unity within the church.

Writing your story.

It can be pretty intimidating to sit down and write out your testimony. The following hints will help you get started. Don't worry about making it perfect; Brother Rob or another leader in the church will help you smooth out any rough spots when you meet to record it.

- 1) *Begin with your past.* Tell a little about your life before you became a Christian. Be careful not to glory in your sin, but sharing some of the details of our past can be used of the Lord to convict others wrestling with their own sin. What was your life like before you met Jesus?
- 2) *Tell about how you heard the gospel.* It can even be helpful for you to share some of the Gospel in your testimony. How did God convict you? Where did you hear the Good News? How did you feel?
- 3) *Tell about what you did in response to the gospel.* Did you instantly receive it? Did a wrestling match erupt in your heart? Share how you ultimately repented of your sins and placed your faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 4) *Tell how your life has begun to change.* How are you different? Be sure to give God the glory for these changes. He deserves it (Phil. 1:6)!
- 5) *Thank anyone who helped you meet Christ.* While we want to be careful that God gets all of the glory, it is appropriate to encourage and build up other believers, especially those who loved us enough to tell us about Jesus and his love (1 Thes. 5:11).
- 6) *I always like to end with a short sentence prayer.* Yours may go something like this: "Thank you Jesus for saving me." Use your own words to tell Him of your love and commitment to follow Him.
- 7) **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN:** We recognize that those who are blessed to trust Christ as children may not have lengthy backgrounds. As such, their testimonies are often shorter. That's OK. We still feel like it is important for them to share their story in their words.
- 8) Your testimony should run anywhere from 40 seconds to no longer than 3 minutes.

Putting it all together.

We only record audio of your testimony. For many people, this takes away the intimidation of the camera. Remember, we can do as many takes as necessary. Show up with your testimony written out. If a child is not a smooth reader, help them to practice sharing their story in a conversational manner. We utilize digital pictures in the background of your video. Please send about 6-10 digital pictures prior to your baptism. You can email them to robs@crossroadsetown.com or patrick@crossroadsetown.com.

Dealing with logistics.

On the day of your baptism, be sure to bring a change of modest clothing and a towel. Your family and friends may want to arrive a few minutes early so they can get the best seats! Invite loved ones to come and be a part of this special day. We have heard testimony of people who were very resistant to church attending baptism services because the baptism candidate invited them. What an opportunity for them to hear the Gospel – both through your testimony and through the preaching of the Word!

If you have someone who wants to take pictures, we encourage that. They can feel free to move around for the best camera shot. Simply remind them to do so in a way that is least obstructive to others who are viewing from the congregation.