



Your Story with God.

On a separate sheet, take time to reflect on and write out your “story with God.” Please do not think of this as a daunting task, because it is not meant to be! We are aiming for about a one-page written version that tells the story of putting your faith in Jesus. We’ve provided a few questions to help you work through your story so that you will be well prepared for the video which will be used to share your story with our church community on the day of your baptism.

First, we want to give you a few words of encouragement though.

Your baptism video will be shared across our community and we usually put the videos on social media to add to the celebration of your baptism. Because of this, we ask that you don’t share any details you wouldn’t want others to know. Also, we ask that you don’t share anything that might shame, embarrass, or hurt anyone else.

And please know that there will be people who hear your story who are in the place you used to be. Treat your story as the one and only opportunity you will ever have to say to them what you wish someone had said to you about Jesus when you needed it most. Let God use you to inspire them to put their trust in Jesus too!

1. In about 150 words (first 1/3 of a page), briefly describe your early life and whether or not you had any kind of relationship with Jesus. What influences and choices did you make that led you toward or away from a life of faith in Jesus? What led you to want to build a relationship with Christ?
2. In about 150 words (second 1/3 of a page), briefly describe when and how you decided to put your faith and trust in Jesus. What prompted this decision? How did you make it? Who was influential in the process?
3. In about 150 words (final 1/3 of a page), briefly describe the difference Jesus is making in your life since you put your trust in him. How have you seen your life start to change? Why do you want to get baptized as a result?



Things to know for the day of your baptism

What to Wear

We recommend you wear a dark shirt and pants. Clothing that is made of material that retains minimum amounts of water would be best. Ladies, we encourage you to wear a one-piece bathing suit under your dark shirt. Please wear these clothes to the service and bring along a change of clothes and a towel.

What to Expect

Please be prepared to meet with the person who will be baptizing you at the front of the auditorium, 15 minutes before the service for instructions on the flow of the service and any other details you need to know.

Just before the baptism portion of the service, the pastor and all participants getting baptized will move to the entrance near the baptism tank. The pastor will enter the water first to make introductory comments and then invite the participants one by one into the baptism tank.

When it is your turn to be baptized, the pastor will share a few brief reflections and then invite you to cross your arms over your chest to prepare to be leaned backward below the water.

The pastor will then say, "Because you have put your trust in Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The pastor will then immerse you backward into the water. This is quick; do not worry, you won't be under water long. You will need to bend your knees to assist the pastor in lowering you down and lifting you up.

Afterwards, someone will direct you to an appropriate location for toweling off and getting changed. Then you can return to the auditorium to join your family and friends for the rest of the service.

Who to Invite

Your baptism is an incredibly exciting step in your life of faith. It is something worth celebrating, so we want to encourage you to invite your family and friends to join in the celebration. This is a chance for you to gather together the people in your life who are your support system, so please be sure to ask others to join with us in celebrating who you are and what Jesus has done for your life. Most people will be honoured you have asked them to come to witness your baptism, even if they do not express a faith in God or participate in a rhythm of church. This is a chance for you to share your faith as you declare your love for Jesus and your desire to trust him with your life.

Finally, if you wish to continue the celebration after the church service, please talk with your Location Pastor or leader about arranging to hang out at the church if you would like to use the space. Many people have had a luncheon for their friends and family who came to their baptism, so please know that if we can help facilitate some space for you we would love your celebration continue.

We are so excited about everything God is doing in your life and we look forward to your upcoming baptism!

Sincerely,

Your Location Pastors

Resources

Join a Life Group (<https://southridgechurch.ca/get-connected>)

Joining a Life Group is a great step to support and encourage your spiritual journey through relationships with others.

Practicing the Way (<https://a.co/d/9JR95Ad>)

This book by John Mark Comer is an excellent resource to help guide you on your journey of following Jesus