

Baptism Service

1. Be Reverent

The meaning of reverent is feeling or showing deep and solemn respect. Baptism service is an event where a person commits their life to Jesus. So we need to expect every disciple to show complete respect during this service.

Remember : The person who is getting baptized is committing their lives to the Almighty God. It is a huge decision.

2. Arrangements made ahead of time

As Baptism is a new birth, it would be great to have the place of Baptism free from any distraction or disturbance. Make sure all things are taken care of well ahead of time to avoid any confusion or commotion during the service.

- Make sure there is water in the baptistery.
- The person is walked through the whole event explaining what happens when one is baptized.
- Towel and Change of clothes

Remember : This day and event will be remembered for ever by the one who is getting baptized

3. Prioritize Salvation

Receiving Salvation is the most important event in one's life. We want to be saved today not tomorrow! So there needs to be urgency in us pleading the person to get baptized.

- Like Peter did in *Act 2:40-41 With many other words he [Peter] warned them; and he [Peter] pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.* [3000 people were baptized the same day!]
- You see Peter was communicating urgency in their decision to accept the message that Jesus is Lord and Messiah [Act 2:36] and to get baptized for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit..
- Same urgency shown by Ethiopian Eunuch to get baptized immediately after he received the gospel from Philip. *Act 8:36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"*
- Also urged by Ananias to Paul in *Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'*
- The jailors family in Acts 16 got baptized at the middle of the night.

For example any baptism service should not be delayed for following reasons:

- a. The next Sunday / holiday where other disciples / family members are free.
- b. The leader / mentor is busy or not in town
- c. Baptism/Salvation takes precedence over any other criteria or event or persons presence.
- d. It should not be based on other people's convenience.
- e. Find water and get baptized.

Remember : People who got baptized or who followed Jesus in the New Testament made an urgent decision and did not delay them being saved.

4. Time the event

Baptism service should not be too short and also not too long [maximum 30 minutes]. It shouldn't dragging or boring. The focus is to encourage the person who is getting baptized and make it memorable for the person so that he or she will remember this day for the rest of their life.

5. Invite near and dear

Whenever possible invite people [friends and family] to witness the baptism. The persons change is a great witness of God's power and glory. How awesome it will be for our near and dear ones witness it, if possible. This is another way of spreading the gospel of Jesus. But always saving one's soul is the priority over people's presence or anything else.

6. Schedule in the details

The sample schedule can be

- Opening prayer
- Scripture reading explaining Baptism [Romans 6:3-8, Matt 28:18-20 or any other scriptures in the Baptism study]
- Sharing (short and sweet, maximum 10-12 including family). [Optional] Even pre-determine who will share at the baptism. So it can be prepared and meaningful.
- The person can share what moved him / her to love God. He or she can share a passage from the Bible that has moved their heart. [If the person is willing to share]
- Song (I have decided)
- The person can get into the baptistery
- Allow the person to pray loudly/ pray in his/her mind to Jesus, committing his life to make Jesus Lord of his/her life.
- The persons Confession (the person can be inside the water sharing his confession – answering those questions asked by the disciple)
 - o Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died for your sins on the cross, was buried and rose again after 3 days?
 - o What is your true confession? Jesus is my Lord.
 - o Because of your confession I now baptize you in the name of the Father, name of the son and the name of the holy spirit for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Prayer once he/she comes out of the water (praising God for the New Life in Christ)
- Short verse of a song (like I've been redeemed)
- A big hug from disciples welcoming him/her to the Kingdom of God.
- Then he/she can go to change.

Remember :A good order of schedule will make the event memorable and meaningful.

7. Make it Memorable

Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Celebrate the new life in Jesus. Rejoice.

If affordable provide snacks/food.

(The first letters of all points spell BAPTISM)