

How to Use:

**I desire to be baptized!**



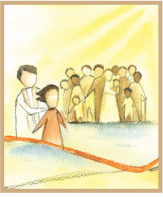
# How to Use: *I Desire to be Baptized!*

*I Desire to be Baptized!* is a resource for families, leaders of family and kid ministries, and kids of all ages to use in preparation for the celebration of baptism. In the Anglican church one piece of the Baptism Liturgy is the Baptismal Vows. This resource can be used to help older kids understand what they are saying yes to when they say "I DO!" to each of these vows. For children baptized as infants, this resource can be used as they grow to remember and celebrate what their parents vow "I DO" to on their behalf."

## **Before you begin:**

Parents, grandparents, pastors, and caregivers, thank you for valuing the spiritual formation of the children in your life! Before opening up *I Desire to be Baptized!* with a child, consider looking at stories of baptisms in scripture. Here are some from the book of Acts: 8:34-39, 16:13-15, & 19:1-5. As you read, ask yourself, "What is God doing in the sacrament of baptism?". Consider your own baptism. Reflect on how you have seen works of the spirit at or since your baptism. As primary spiritual influencers in the lives of kids, it is good for us to take time to prepare to sit with them in the truths of baptism.

Once you are ready to sit down with a child, light a candle and pray together, acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit. As you walk through this resource, notice the images together and be ready to ask helpful, open-ended questions that invite an unpressured "I DO?" and "We Say ...!" responses. We recommend using this resource the week before baptisms and in ongoing ways to remind children of what God has done. We pray that by the spirit you are equipped and encouraged by this resource, to join God in his ongoing invitation to kids.



## Baptism!

Before opening up *I Desire to be Baptized!* with a child, consider lighting a candle and praying together, acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit.

"Do you desire to be Baptized?" is the very first question asked and it is a great one to open up a conversation around baptism!

Consider asking some follow up questions such as:

- o I wonder what things might we see, hear, or feel at a baptism?
- o I wonder what you think God has to say about baptism?
- o I wonder what you have to say about baptism?



## Renouncing

The next three vows that are spoken at baptism all have to do with renouncing. This word can be confusing, and may not be a word that many kids

have heard before. Invite the kids to push both hands out in front of them (just like the child in the picture) any time they hear the word "renounce" as a physical reminder that renounce means to say no to something.

During each vow, give space for kids to wonder. Consider asking:

- o I wonder if you have any questions about this vow?
- o I wonder if you have anything else to say about this vow?



## We say "Yes!"

The last three vows are all positives that we say yes to as followers of Jesus. Saying YES to Jesus is one way we respond to his calling us into a relationship.

Anytime the kids hear the word "yes" invite them to give a thumbs up, as a reminder of what we commit to as Christians."

After each vow, give space for kids to wonder. Consider asking:

- o I wonder how else we say yes to Jesus?
- o I wonder if God has anything else to say about this vow?

## Celebrating the sacrament of baptism:

This resource can also be used to celebrate a baptism birthday or anniversary for kids of any age. Here are some ideas on how to celebrate.

- Light your baptism candle
- Share memories from the day of the baptism
- Look at pictures or videos from your baptism
- Parents & caregivers, share how you have seen the Holy Spirit form your child from the time of their baptism
- Eat a special treat
- Restate the baptism vows in this book

## Other Resources & Acknowledgements

Other Resources for bringing up kids as Christians in the fellowship of the Church: teaching them the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments.

Childrens' Books:

- *On The Day You Were Baptized: A Sacramental Explanation of Baptism for Children* - Sarah Howell
- *The Apostles' Creed: For all God's Children* - Benjamin Myers
- *The Good Shepherd's Pasture: A Story of Your Baptism* - Elizabeth Harwell

Books:

- *It takes a Church to Baptize* - Scott McKnight

Songs:

- *Apostles Creed: Setting the Table* - An Album by Liturgical Folk
- *The Lord's Prayer: Setting the Table* - An Album by Liturgical Folk

Catechism:

- [\*Catechism in Family Prayer\*](#) - featured on the Next Generation Leadership Initiative and website [nextgenanglican.com](http://nextgenanglican.com)

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*I Desire to be Baptized!* is a gift from International Anglican Church in Colorado Springs. Thank-you to all who helped in the creation of this resource. Special thanks to all who gave feedback and suggestions on how we could improve and make this resource accessible to other churches. Permission to print for local church ministry is granted. The baptismal vows featured in *I Desire to be Baptized!* are from the 2019 Book of Common Prayer.

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