

Baptism is a sign of God's love for us—His commitment to being in relationship with us. When a baby, infant, or toddler is baptized, it also signifies the parents commitment to bringing up the child to know who God is and to help their child develop a relationship with Him.

Let me share a bit about our perspective/outlook/view on baptism for kids 4 through 15 years of age here at the Ridge. For your child of this age to be baptized, we are looking for three things that are taking place. \*Note: Looking for, not demanding, but looking for:

1. It is your child who is truly driving the process,
2. They understand the magnitude/significance of Christ's death on the cross and the personal impact it makes in their life/salvation,
3. They have a healthy, personal relationship with Christ which takes place through consistent, disciplined/dedicated time spent in prayer and reading the bible.

Between the ages of 4 and 15 years of age, there are many voices, activities and influences attempting to persuade your child—both good and bad. During these developmental years, kids can drift from earlier commitments to Christ. However, it is also true that some stay true to the course. We find value in kids waiting until they've gone through the trials and challenges of these years and have held onto and grown in their faith to make that public profession of their faith.

We do have an opportunity for your child to profess their faith when they are teenagers—this opportunity is called The Walk. The Walk is a program for students in grades 9-12 to further their relationship with God. It is a component of the high school youth group, which is called Junkyard.

But, we recognize that you know your child best. If baptism truly is the path you feel lead to take, then there are a few next steps we ask of you.

- *4 years to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*
  - **Parents** - We ask that you, the parent(s), attend the parent baptism class that we offer at the Ridge. In order to have your child baptized, attendance at all three sessions is required. These are three, one hour sessions offered on either Sunday mornings or Tuesday nights.
  - **Parent(s) and child** - In addition, for your 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grader, we ask that you complete a baptism packet entitled "Am I Ready to be Baptized?" with your child. It does come with a parent answer guide☺ Contact Cheryl Sidler, [csidler@ridgelife.org](mailto:csidler@ridgelife.org) to register for the next class.
- *6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*
  - Contact Doug Applegate, Youth Director, [dapplegate@ridgelife.org](mailto:dapplegate@ridgelife.org)