



Diamond Valley Community Church

Baptism Packet

NEXT CLASS:

_____, _____, _____
(Day) (Month) (Year)

NEXT Baptism Service:

_____, _____, _____
(Day) (Month) (Year)

Dear Candidate,

Luke 3:21 says, *“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.”* Although Jesus was the Son of God, even He was baptized in water. Afterwards, He asked us to follow His example. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It is a public profession that you have been born again into a new life in Christ and that you want to honor Him with your life. It also calls those who are witnesses of this event to hold you accountable for the decision that you have made to profess Jesus as your Lord and Savior. As Christians, we are called to encourage one another and to pull one another back on track when we stray from the Lord.

Believer's Water Baptism

There are only two ordinances in the Christian Church—baptism and the Lord's Supper. We call these "ordinances" because our Lord ordained them for the church to practice. They are:

1. Instituted in the Gospels
 - A. Baptism—Matthew 28:20
 - B. Lord's Supper—Luke 22:19
2. Celebrated in Acts
 - A. Baptism—Acts 2:41
 - B. Lord's Supper—Acts 2:42
3. Explained in the Epistles
 - A. Baptism—Romans 6:1
 - B. Lord's Supper—I Corinthians 10:14

There are numerous other references in scripture to support these truths. Therefore, we conclude that it is our Lord's will for the church to practice these ordinances regularly, properly and purposefully.

A. The Requirement of Water Baptism?

1. In Acts 2:41, what did the people do who had received the word of Peter?

What does salvation mean? (Acts 2:21; Acts 4:12; John 3:16-17; Rom 5:9; Rom 10:9-13)

2. Read Acts 16:30-33. What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer he must do to be saved?

When was he baptized?

3. Read Acts 10:34-48. Why did Peter give the order to baptize Cornelius and his household?

- A. First they heard the: _____ (vs. 34-42).
- B. Second they: _____ in Him (vs. 43).
- C. Third they: _____ the Holy Spirit (vs. 47; Rom 8:9; John 1:12; 7:39).

4. Do these passages indicate that baptism should come before or after salvation?



B. The Meaning of Water Baptism?

1. Read Romans 6:3-11 and identify the three things that baptism pictures or symbolizes.

- (vs. 3) _____ going down into the water
- (vs. 4a) _____ total submersion; and
- (vs. 4b) _____ coming out of the waer.

2. Baptism is the declaration of the believer’s identification with Christ in His

- _____,
- _____,
- and _____.

3. More than that, baptism is a public acknowledgement that the old man and his ways have been

- _____, (Rom 6:6)
- and the new man is raised to walk (live) in _____ of life. (Rom 6:4)

4. Baptism is a symbol (Gal 3:27; Col 2:12). It is an outward physical sign of an inward spiritual reality. It pictures the past (putting to death the old man) and it pictures the future (willingness to follow Christ).

Has the spiritual reality of what baptism pictures happened in your life? _____.
When? _____.

(An approximate time is fine if you cannot remember the exact date.)

Baptism is not a “sacrament,” whereby a special measure of grace is transferred to you from God. Baptism does not represent a “recommitment” to Christ. There is one moment of salvation and one testimony by baptism. (Ephesians 4:5).



C. The Method of Water Baptism?

Various Christian churches baptize in different ways. The methods (called “modes”) used include sprinkling (the head), pouring (over the head), and immersion (submerging the whole body). As can be seen from the usage of the word in the above illustration, immersion best agrees with the basic force of *BAPTIZO*. The Greek language has words for pouring or sprinkling but these words were never used in connection with baptism.

Also, there is great evidence that the early followers of Christ understood baptism to be by immersion. For example, John the Baptist baptized where there was “much water” (**John 3:23**), Jewish proselytes were submersed in a tank of water, a practice which we would naturally expect the church to continue, and every case of baptism in the New Testament could have been done with immersion. Immersion best fits the illustration of death to the old life and being raised to new life (**Romans 6:1-4**). While we practice baptism by immersion, we acknowledge that the most important issue is the identification with Christ rather than the method of baptism. Historically, there is no evidence of the church practicing any other mode of baptism prior to the 4th century AD.

All Christians are commanded to make disciples by baptizing them and teaching them (**Matt 28:19**). There is no biblical restriction on who must do the baptizing. If 3,000 people were baptized in **Acts 2:41**, it is likely that more than the apostles were doing the baptizing in order to finish in one day. Indeed, the person who does the baptizing is not significant (**1 Corinthians 1:14-17**) for there is no special grace that God dispenses through an individual at baptism. It is the act of obedience itself that is the focus and any baptized believer is fully capable of serving in this ministry.

2. Only immersion fits the symbolism of baptism. No other mode (sprinkling, pouring, etc.) properly symbolizes the _____, _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

3. It was the mode of baptism practiced in the New Testament:

- Read Matthew 3:1-6. Who was baptizing in the Jordan River? _____
- Read John 3:23. What does this passage say about the amount of water present for John’s baptisms? _____
- Read Matthew 3:13-17. Who baptized Jesus? _____
- Where was Jesus baptized? _____
- What did the “voice from heaven” say? _____
- Jesus came _____ of the water.
- Read Acts 8:36-39. Phillip led the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Christ. The Bible says they got off the chariot and went _____ into the water, then came _____ out of the water.
- What mode of baptism does this sound like to you? _____.

Writing Your Salvation Testimony

Your salvation testimony tells the story of how you came to trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and how your life has changed since that time. Typically, your story should tell what happened before, during, and since that time.

Use the spaces below to jot notes or write out your testimony.

- Before – Tell what events/circumstances led to you trusting Christ as your personal Savior.

- Consider what problem(s) you had that only Christ could solve.

- During – Tell in your own words the salvation message (see points below). How did your understanding of this lead you to trust Christ as your Lord and Savior?

- After – How has God’s saving you changed the course of your life? How have your priorities and passions changed? (Don’t be afraid to tell about areas you haven’t perfected yet, but desire to):

1. God is deeply loves us! (John 3:16)
2. All of us have sinned and turned away from God (Romans 3:23)
3. Sin brings an eternal penalty that separates us from God (Romans 6:23)
4. Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins and forgive us (Romans 5:8)
5. Whoever trusts Christ as their Savior and Lord will become part of God’s family and will receive an eternal inheritance with Him (Romans 10:9-13)



Application for Baptism by Immersion

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address _____

How long have you been a member of DVCC? _____ years _____ months

Have you completed DVCC baptism class? _____ If so, when? _____.

In your own words explain why baptism is important and why do you want to be baptized?

By signing this form, I give my permission for my (my child's) photograph and testimony to be published on DVCC's Website. (Parent must sign if child is under 18).

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Minister / Deacon Signature: _____ Date: _____

Baptism

Parental/Legal Guardian Consent Form

Please be advised that I, _____, being the parent and/or
(name of parent and/or legal guardian)

the legal guardian of _____, do hereby authorize the
(name of child)

Diamond Valley Community Church to proceed with _____'s
(name of child)

request to be baptized by immersion on the _____ day of _____,
(day) (month) (year)

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature of parent and/or legal guardian) *(Date)*



Baptism Instructions:

Below are a few things we want you to know as you prepare for both the Baptism class and the Baptism service. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the church at (951) 652-4488.

1. Please bring this packet with you on the day of the next scheduled Baptism class.
2. Please be sure to complete the both the Personal Testimony and Baptism Application forms.
3. On the day of the Baptism Service, please bring the following:
 - a. Please wear clothing that will be unrevealing when wet. We will provide a white baptism robe to put on over your clothing, also wear socks. Please no bathing suits.
 - b. Please bring your own towel.
 - c. Change of clothing and any other items you will need to prepare for worship after you are baptized.
4. Please arrive at church at 7:30 AM and let the greeter at the door know that you are here for baptism. You will be escorted to the baptism area, where you can prepare for baptism.
5. The baptism will be the first order of service, our service begins at 8:00 AM.
6. If you have any special family members or friends who are attending, please let us know so that we can acknowledge and thank them for their support.
7. Your immediate family members are welcomed to accompany you at the baptism pool.
8. We will pray with you prior to the baptism.
9. With your consent, we will take a photograph of your baptism to be posted on our website.
10. The Sunday following your baptism, at the beginning of the service you will be presented with a Baptism certificate.
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