

At StuCo, our mission is to help students **find their way back to God,** and we are some excited that you are exploring whether baptism is the next right step for you!

Let's start by talking about why you should follow Jesus. At the beginning of creation, God made humans to be in community with him. But Adam and Eve chose to go against God's perfect plan. Since that moment in the creation story, our sin has created a wall between us and God.

God loves us deeply and desires to be in a relationship with His creation. So much so, that He sent Jesus into this world to live a perfect life. Jesus was then crucified on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, to pay for our sins. He then rose from the dead, defeating death, and now every human being can choose to accept His sacrifice as a free gift and choose to follow Him. We have the freedom to accept this gift, which transforms our lives as we commit to following Jesus. Once we receive what Jesus did for us, we have then found our way back to God!

#### **Bible Verses to Read**

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" -

#### Romans 3:23

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved." -

### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

"... at that time you were separated from Christ... without hope and without God in the world." - **Ephesians 2:12** 

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **- Romans 10:9** 

Journal	l below about your experience in finding your	
way back to God:		
Why do	you want to follow Jesus?	

### Why Baptism?

In the Bible, Jesus calls those that have put their faith in Hi

to get baptized. Jesus himself was baptized. There are also many examples in Scripture of people coming to faith, and then immediately being baptized.

## What is Baptism?

Baptism is a representation of what happens when you choose to believe in God. When you go under the water, you are putting to death your old life and coming up out of the water with a brand new life with God. Baptism is only an outward representation of a decision that you have already made inwardly. Baptism itself does not make you right with God.

### Who should get Baptized?

Baptism should only be for those that have purposefully chosen to believe in Jesus.

### **Bible Verses to read**

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized..." - Acts 8:12-13

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" - Matthew 28:19

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefor e

buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

- Romans 6:3-4

	spoken to your parent or guardian about y
lecision <sup>(</sup>	to get baptized? What do they think about <code>y</code>
decision?	•
_	on that baptizes you, should be someone the
hat can	help you in your desire to follow Jesus. Who
omeone	like that, that you can ask to baptize you?

### What happens after Baptism?

Putting your faith and trust in God is not just a one time decision. It is something you will wrestle with until you get to Heaven. But a life committed to God is a life that leads to purpose and wholeness. It is not something that is done easily. You will make mistakes. But Jesus' sacrifice for us allows us the opportunity to find our way back to God over and over again. Below we have listed some things that can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

### **Get connected to a Small Group**

If you are not in a StuCo small group already, get in one! If you are in one, show up and be consistent as much as you can. Get connected to the people in your group and build relationships with the other students and with your leaders. Following God is not meant to be done by yourself!

### **Read your Bible**

If you have a Bible, start reading it. The book of Matthew is a great place to start. If you don't have a Bible, get one! Let your leader or StuCo director know; they will get you a Bible you can take with you.

# Find a time to pray

Find a consistent time and place to pray to God. It can be somewhere in your room, your car or even outside somewhere. It doesn't matter. Pick a time of a day where you are at your best. It could be morning time right after you wake up, or at night right before you go to bed. Pick a time and a place and do your best to stick with it!

What is one way you can stay connected to God after baptism? Why?	
What are some things you can decide to do right now,	
that will help you stay connected to God after baptism?	