



# CENTRAL

Biblical Teaching | Passionate Worship | Authentic Ministry

Dear Parent:

One of the core values of Central is that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this **Salvation and Baptism kit**, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you celebrate and reinforce your child's faith decision. I urge you to take the following simple steps.

## STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a link to a short video that explains this particular Faith Path step. You will hear both experts and ordinary families share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information about Faith Path, please visit

**centralbcs.org/faithpath** or contact Chris Gary, Minister to Children, at **cgary@centralbcs.org**, or Jeremy Lewis, Minister to Students, at **jlewis@centralbcs.org**.

## STEP TWO: START

To help you celebrate your child's faith decision, this kit includes a *Now That I'm A Christian* bookmark for your child and *Spiritual Birthday* celebration tips for you.

If your child is registered with Central, you will receive an email at select birthdays with information on how to get the free kit appropriate for his or her age. To confirm that we have birthday information on your child, please log into our database at **centralbcs.org/realm** and update your family profile.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit **centralbcs.org/faithpath** to learn more or to determine if your child/children are ready for other Faith Path steps.

In Christ,

Phillip Bethancourt  
Senior Pastor

PS: Additional information may be found at **centralbcs.org/faithpath/salvationbaptism**.



# FAITH PATH

## **SALVATION & BAPTISM**

*Celebrate Your Child's Faith Decision*



**CENTRAL**



There is nothing more exciting for a parent than guiding a child to faith. Once your child has accepted Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior it is time to help them tell others about that decision through baptism.

If you are not sure if your child has made this decision yet, please request the *Prepare to Lead Your Child to Christ* kit at [centralbcs.org/faithpath/preparetolead](http://centralbcs.org/faithpath/preparetolead).

**Baptism:** Baptism is a public announcement of belief and a visible picture of an inward transformation. All who experience God's saving grace and respond through faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins should be baptized in obedience to Jesus' commands as recorded in the New Testament and modeled in the early church. Explain to your child that being baptized does not make him or her a Christian. There is nothing magical about the water. What makes someone a Christian is the decision to ask Jesus Christ to forgive his or her sins and take control of his or her life. Your child might be nervous about getting baptized. Assure your child that he or she will just be dipped under the water for a couple of seconds and that this is an exciting time. If you have a My Faith Box, be sure to fill out the designated page in the Milestones section after your child is baptized. You can schedule your child's baptism by contacting the Pastor's office via email: [srpastor@centralbcs.org](mailto:srpastor@centralbcs.org).

**Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper is a special time when those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior remember that He died for their sins. We remember this by eating bread which represents Jesus' body and by drinking juice which symbolizes Jesus' blood. Celebrate your child's first participation in communion. Discuss the meaning. If you have a My Faith Box, be sure to fill out the designated page in the Milestones section noting his or her first Lord's Supper.



**Symbols and Celebrations:** Consider giving your child something to signify the decision he or she has made. This can be a cross, a wooden stake with date to drive into the backyard, a new Bible, a Bible study, or a handwritten note in the front of a blank journal. As children get older they sometimes question their earlier faith decision. Help your child feel secure by providing a firm foundation. If you have a My Faith Box, write down the date and other special memories from the day he or she accepted Christ on the designated page in the Milestones section. Use the Spiritual Birthdays card included with this kit for ideas on how to celebrate your child's spiritual birthday. Take time to talk about what he or she is learning. Allow your child to ask questions and talk through new areas of spiritual growth. Pray for the upcoming year in his or her journey. This will also give you great insight into where some extra help or attention is needed and how you can pray more specifically for your child.

**Help Your Child Begin to Walk with Jesus:** Show your child what a Christian life looks like. Teach your child how to pray and coach him or her on how to read the Bible. Salvation and baptism are only the beginning of a wonderful journey with God. Now that you have helped your child take these exciting first steps, you have the opportunity and responsibility to disciple him or her into a fully developing follower of Christ.



## INTENTIONAL FAITH PATH PLAN

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How will you be intentional this next year?

- ☐ Pray daily for and with my child.
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- ☐ Bless my child daily.
- ☐ Schedule and have regular family times.
- ☐ Schedule my child's baptism and celebration.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

***My Faith Box*** by Lydia Randall from [myfaithbox.org](http://myfaithbox.org)

***Baptism: Bible Study for Kids*** by Richard E. Todd

***Communion: Bible Study for Kids*** by Richard E. Todd

***Family Night Tool Chest: Basic Christian Beliefs***

from [heritagebuilders.com](http://heritagebuilders.com)

**FAITH** @ Home

[centralbcs.org](http://centralbcs.org)  
[centralbcs.org/faithathome](http://centralbcs.org/faithathome)





# SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAYS

## **BEST USE**

As a guide to celebrate a child's spiritual birthday

## **NUTRITIONAL VALUE**

Reinforcing the child's faith decision annually

## **IMPORTANCE**

Celebrating your child's faith decision every year can help them establish a firm foundation to prevent unnecessary doubts. This is especially important if your child came to faith at a young age. Many children raised in church begin to question the authenticity of their faith when they get older simply because they cannot recall the specific date or some dramatic event surrounding their moment of conversion. An annual "spiritual birthday party" can reinforce your child's faith by reminding him or her that our salvation is firmly rooted in what Jesus Christ did for us.

## **SCHEDULE**

Decide what date you will celebrate your child's spiritual birthday as a fun tradition that also reinforces his or her faith decision. Consider any of the following options:

- The actual date your child trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- If you do not know the actual date, using your child's baptism anniversary would be the next best option.





- If you do not have a record of either date, then you might consider celebrating the day after your child's physical birthday to highlight his or her "born again" day.

## **CELEBRATE**

Just like for a physical birthday party, you may choose to invite guests to join the celebration including nearby relatives, close family friends, or a teacher from church. Ask your child who they would like you to invite. Including the child's friends might be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explain what a spiritual birthday is all about. Consider making his or her favorite meal, baking a cake, serving cupcakes, or some other treat that will make the occasion special. Include a candle for each year since your child was born again. You might also give your child a gift that will help them grow spiritually during the coming year such as an age appropriate Bible, a devotional book, or an iTunes gift card to download Christian music.

## **REINFORCE**

Take time to talk about what Christ did for your child and what happened when he or she decided to believe. Some specific suggestions include:

- Help your child write a letter to God thanking Him for what Jesus did on the cross and for things that happened during the past year, etc. Write your own letter to the child encouraging his or her walk with God, mentioning how you've seen growth this year, etc. Put the letters in your child's My Faith Box so they will have them as a treasured keepsake later.
- Invite your child to read John 3:3 aloud and explain that you are celebrating the child's "born again" birthday. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 together and ask the child how Jesus Christ made them a new person when they believed. (For example, He saved me from sin, He gave me eternal life, He gave the Holy Spirit to guide me, etc.)
- Pray for your child, asking God to help them continue to grow a strong faith in the coming year.



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## NOW THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN

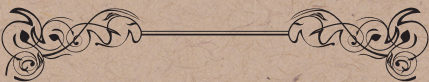
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Date I accepted Christ as my Lord & Savior \_\_\_\_\_

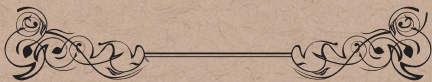
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You always show  
me the path that  
leads to life.

You will fill me  
with joy when I  
am with you.

Acts 2:28





Congratulations! Here are some simple next steps:

### **GET BAPTIZED**

Baptism tells the story of what Christ has done for you. Learn more and schedule your baptism.

### **LEARN ABOUT GOD**

Get involved at church to grow in your faith.

### **LISTEN TO GOD**

Read the Bible as God's letter to you. Start by reading a few verses each day starting with the book of John.

### **TALK TO GOD**

Prayer is talking to God as your leader and new best friend. Fill in the following when you talk to God:

*Thank you for:*

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*I'm sorry for:*

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*I love you because:*

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*Please help by:*

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Now that you are a Christian, keep growing and have a blast on the exciting faith path adventure God has for you!