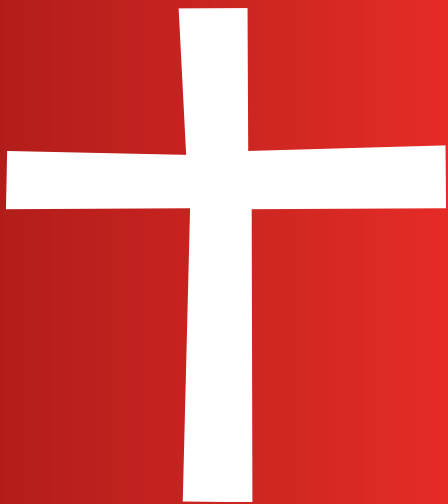


Jesus, Baptism, *and ME...*



**Jesus,
Baptism,
and ME...**

Foundational Principles for Young Believers

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Kirk L. Zehnder

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author's emphasis.

How To Use This Study Guide

This self-guided study, “**Jesus, Baptism, and Me,**” was created as a tool to help Parents and Kid’s Ministry Leaders prepare younger children for the important step of faith – **following Jesus Christ in Water Baptism**. In this study you and your child (or student) will make the following discoveries:

- **ASSURANCE:** Helping children understand and affirm their individual decision to follow Jesus Christ, and understanding Jesus’ work of salvation and redemption in their lives (Becoming a Child of God).
- **OBEDIENCE:** Helping children understand why we are called to follow Jesus Christ in water baptism.
- **EXPECTATION:** Helping children understand what they can expect when they are baptized.
- **GROWTH:** Helping children grow in their new faith as they learn how to stay close to Jesus through:
 - ✓ The indwelling ministry and presence of the **Holy Spirit!**
 - ✓ The wonderful love letter from God we have received in the **Bible!**
 - ✓ The daily privilege we have in learning how to come to the Lord in **Prayer!**
 - ✓ The love and strength we can receive by regularly attending **Church** and becoming part of a loving church family!

This is meant to be an **interactive study** with your child (student). You will gain the most from it together by allowing your child (student) to:

- **FIND** the Bible verse referenced. (You can also help them learn the Books of the Bible in the process.)
- **READ** the Bible verse out loud. (You can help them with any words they do not know, but assist them in reading the verses themselves, and out loud.)
- **ANSWER** the questions themselves. (You can assist them by asking key questions that will guide them in their discovery, but it is important that the “discovery” is theirs personally.)
- **PACE** the study according to your child’s (student’s) personal level of interest and understanding. In a classroom setting this will take on a different dynamic. However, the goal is not to rush the child to complete the booklet, but to help them grow in personal understanding about their salvation, baptism, and personal walk with Jesus Christ.
- **ENJOY** the study with your child (student). This discovery process is meant to be both life changing and fun. (Use creativity in finding examples that can further illustrate the truths. Example: When you study about the butterfly, see if you can find a caterpillar, a cocoon, or a butterfly and use the discovery process to add emphasis to the teaching point.)
- **CELEBRATE** the answers and discovery of your child (student). When they get an answer correctly – rejoice with them. Let them know that both you and the Lord are proud of them!

I have met so many adults who said they were baptized as a child “*without understanding.*” I created this booklet to help make their baptism one that is meaningful and filled with life lasting understanding and change! I pray that you and your child will be blessed as you discover the wonderful truths regarding – “**Jesus, Baptism, and Me!**”

Kirk L. Zehnder

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***Foundational Principles
For Young Believers***

Making Jesus My Personal Lord and Savior

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!" John 3:3

I. Do You Know Where Butterflies Come From?

A. **Have you ever seen an ugly brown caterpillar crawling on the ground? Did you know that the beautiful butterflies we see come from ugly caterpillars?** This does not happen automatically, but it takes an important change taking place in their lives. You and I are like the caterpillar. If we want to become God's children and be assured that we have been forgiven from all our sins, and are going to heaven, we also need to have a change in our lives. This is what Jesus meant when He said that we must be "Born Again," we must be changed.

B. Why Do We Need To Be Changed?

1. **Have you ever done something wrong?** Describe a time when you did something wrong: _____

a. The Bible calls this **SIN**. This is when we disobey God's rules for our lives.

b. Read the following Bible verses that tell us about sin:
I John 3:4; James 4:17; Romans 14:23.

Making Jesus My Personal Lord and Savior

I. Do You Know Where Butterflies Come From?

B. Why Do We Need To Be Changed? *Continued*

2. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about sin. Look up the following verses in your Bible and answer the following questions:

a. Romans 3:23 - How many people sin? _____

b. Romans 6:23 - What is the result of sin? _____

(What does this mean? Have you ever been lost or separated from your parents? Isn't that a terrible feeling? That is what the Bible means when it talks about "death." It is not only living our lives today separated from a loving God, but also one day when we physically die it means being forever without God.)

II. What Can I Do About My Sin? (The things I have done wrong)

A. First, you are not alone, all men, women, and every boy and girl has the same problem with sin. Read Romans 3:9-12.

B. The **GOOD NEWS** is that this is why Jesus was born: to take away our sins (**Be our Savior**), and help us change, like the butterfly!

C. Read the following Bible verses and write down how Jesus has come to help us with our sin problem:

1. John 1:29: Why did Jesus come? _____

Making Jesus My Personal Lord and Savior

II. What Can I Do About My Sin? *Continued*

C. Read the following Bible verses and write down how Jesus has come to help us with our sin problem:

2. Romans 5:8: What did Jesus do for us? _____

Remember we read earlier that the penalty of sin was "death", being separated from God. Someone who had never sinned, who was stronger than us, had to take our punishment so that we could be forgiven and become God's children and one day live forever with him in heaven. This is what Jesus did for us when he was crucified and died on the cross.

3. Luke 24:1-7: What happened to Jesus on the third day after he was crucified on the cross? _____

D. We see in the verse above that Jesus was greater than sin and death! This is **GOOD NEWS**, isn't it! Read the following Bible verses and write down the benefits of what Jesus has done for us:

1. I John 1:9 - We can be _____ of our sins.

2. John 3:16 - We can have _____ life!

3. Galatians 3:26 - We can now be the _____ of God!

Making Jesus My Personal Lord and Savior

III. What do I need to do to make Jesus my personal Savior and Lord?

- A. The Bible tells us that Jesus has done everything we need to be "**Born Again,**" changed like the butterfly! Read Ephesians 2:8-9.
- B. However, we must each receive His **Free Gift!** Read John 1:12.

A gift is something you don't earn or deserve. However, a gift must be received and opened to become your gift!

C. How do we receive Jesus' gift of salvation?

1. First, we need to **REPENT** of our sins (that is we need to tell God we are truly sorry for what we have done wrong). Read I John 1:9.
2. Second, we need to **BELIEVE** that Jesus died for our sins, and rose again on the third day, and that He is alive. Read Romans 10:9.
3. Third, we need to **INVITE** Jesus into our hearts to be our **personal Savior**. Read Revelation 3:20.

The **door** Jesus is talking about is the door to our heart. We must each personally invite Jesus into our hearts to know Him as our Savior from sin and the Lord of our lives. He will then forgive us, make us his child, and one day we will live in heaven forever with Him.

4. We need to **CONFESS** (tell others) that Jesus is our Savior and Lord. Read Romans 10:10.

Making Jesus My Personal Lord and Savior

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!" John 3:3

- IV. **Would you like to make Jesus your personal Savior and Lord?** If your answer is yes, here is a simple prayer that you can say to God, and you too can be changed like the butterfly.
- A. **"Dear God**, I am really sorry for all my sins, and want to become your child. I believe that Jesus died on the cross so that I could be forgiven and be changed like the butterfly ("born again"). I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today. You promised that everyone who believes in you can live forever with Jesus. Jesus, please come to live in my heart and be my very own Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me and making me a child of God. I will follow you as the Lord of my life. **I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.**
- B. God's Word promises us that God has heard our prayer, and that we have been **"Born Again"** and received the gift of **Eternal Life!** The Scriptures below show us three ways God makes this special promise.
1. What **God Did**. Read John 3:16; John 1:12.
 2. What **God Said**. Read I John 5:10-13.
 3. Where **God Lives**. (In our hearts):
Read Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:13.

Celebrating My New Life In Baptism!

I. **Baptism is the celebration of becoming a Christian** (inviting Jesus into your heart).

A. **Why do we need a celebration?**

1. Celebrations mark very special times in our lives. Each year you celebrate a very special time in your life - **your birthday!** This is a special time when you gather with family and friends to remember the day you were born as a baby. It is usually celebrated with a wonderful birthday cake and presents.
2. Baptism is the Christian celebration of your **spiritual birthday**, the day you asked Jesus to come into your heart and be your personal Savior and Lord. Unlike your regular birthday, it is not done each year, but on **one special day**. But just like your birthday, it is a day when we invite family and friends to celebrate with us and remember the wonderful day we were "**Born Again,**" changed like the butterfly.

B. **What happens when I get baptized?**

1. **Do I need to go under the water?**

- a. The word used in the Bible for baptism means to go totally under the water, to submerge (like a submarine). This is how John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus baptized people.
Read Mark 1:4-5; Acts 8:35-37.
- b. You don't have to worry about going under the water, your pastor will help you, and you can hold your nose and close your eyes. I am sure you have done that in a pool, right?

Celebrating My New Life In Baptism!

B. What Happens When I Get Baptized? *Continued*

2. Why do we go under the water when we are baptized?

- a. To **FOLLOW** the example of _____.
Read Matthew 3:13-17.
- b. To **OBEY** the command of _____.
Read Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38.
- c. To **SHOW OTHERS** that _____ is Lord of my life.
Read Acts 2:41; Matthew 10:32-33.
- d. To **CELEBRATE** what _____ has done for me.
Read Romans 6:1-4.

Going under the water is a celebration of the **new life** we now have with Jesus. It shows that we have been fully forgiven (cleansed, like a bath), and changed like the butterfly.

II. What do I need to do in order to be baptized?

- A. Ask _____ into your heart as your personal Savior and Lord.
Read - John 1:12; Revelation 3:20.
- B. Complete the study guide "**Jesus, Baptism, and Me**" with your parents or church leaders.
- C. Ask your parents to go to your pastor with you to talk about this important step in your **new Christian life**.
- D. Participate in an upcoming baptism service, and invite your family and friends to join you for this **special celebration**.

How To Be Close To Jesus Each Day!

I. How does Jesus stay close to us each day?

A. The Bible says that Jesus lives in our hearts through the **Holy Spirit**.

1. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, just like we cannot see the wind. But just like we know the wind is present, we can know the Holy Spirit is in our hearts. This is how Jesus stays close to us each day.

2. Read the following Scriptures and write down some of the wonderful things that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would come to do for us:

a. The Holy Spirit will be our _____.
Read John 14:16-18.

b. The Holy Spirit will help us understand God's _____.
Read John 16:12-14.

c. The Holy Spirit will give us _____ to tell other people about Jesus: Read Acts 1:8.

d. The Holy Spirit helps us to _____ to God:
Read Romans 8:26.

e. The Holy Spirit helps us to **obey God** and to become more like **Jesus!** Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:22-25.

B. The Holy Spirit is **God's wonderful gift** to those who ask Jesus into their hearts to become their personal Savior and Lord. Read - John 7:37-39; Romans 8:14-16.

How To Be Close To Jesus Each Day!

II. How do I stay close to Jesus each day?

A. By reading the Bible - God's special letter to us.

1. **How do you stay close to your family and friends?** Sure, by spending time with them and getting to know them. God has given us a special letter called the Bible so that we can get to know Him better. The Holy Spirit will help us learn and understand the Bible when we read it and we will get to know all about Jesus and the wonderful things that God wants to do in our lives.
2. Read these Scriptures and write down the reason it is important to read the Bible each day. Read Psalms 1:1-3.
 - a. The Bible makes us _____ . Read Joshua 1:8.
 - b. The Bible is a _____ for our feet (knowing what is right and wrong, and how to follow Jesus). Read Psalms 119:105; Psalms 119:11.
 - c. The Bible helps us grow in our _____ (learning how to trust Jesus for everything we need in our lives).
Read Romans 10:17.
 - d. The Bible helps us to learn more about God and to do every _____ .
Read II Timothy 3:16-17.

How To Be Close To Jesus Each Day!

B. By talking to God daily in prayer - I Thessalonians 5:17.

1. Prayer is simply talking to God and telling him the things that are in our hearts. **We can talk to God about anything!** He loves us and has promised to hear our prayers. We have a loving God who cares about every concern and need that we have.
2. Read the following Scriptures and write down some of the wonderful things God has promised to his children when they pray:
 - a. He promises to _____ all those who call upon (pray to) the Lord (change like the butterfly). Read Romans 10:13.
 - b. He promises to give us our daily _____ (the things we need to live daily). Read Matthew 6:11; Matthew 7:7-11.
 - c. He promises to help us when we have times that we are worried or scared, and He will give us His _____.
Read Philippians 4:6-8.
 - d. He promises to help us when we are sick and _____ us.
Read James 5:13-16.
 - e. He promises to help us when we are confused and don't know what to do by giving us _____.
Read James 1:5.
3. Prayer is also a wonderful way just to say **"Thank You!"** to the Lord and tell him you love him (worship).

How To Be Close To Jesus Each Day!

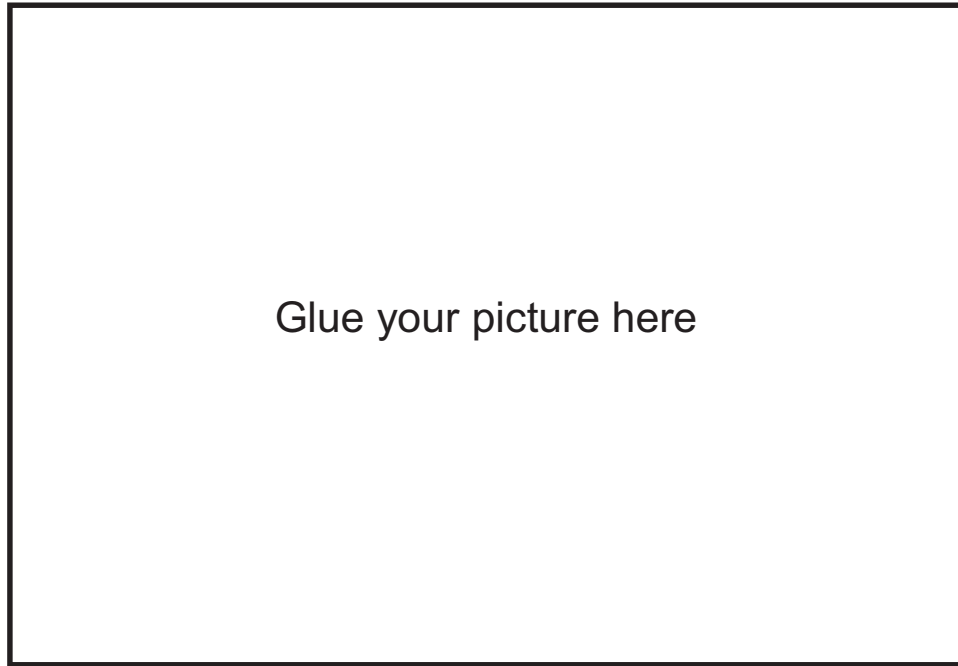
C. By getting involved in my church.

1. The church is when God's family (those who have been changed like the butterfly) gather together to worship God, pray, study the Bible, and help each other to become more like Jesus.
2. **Have you ever seen your dad cook on a barbecue?** If he uses charcoal, he first piles all the individual coals close together in a pile like a mountain. The charcoals stay burning bright and hot when they stay together, but if you take one out and put it all by itself it soon cools off and becomes once again a cold lump of coal.

We need to gather together with other Christians to stay excited about our new life in Jesus Christ. If you ever played tug of war, you know that the winning team is the one with the most and the strongest people pulling on the rope. This is true also in our Christian lives.

3. **How can I get involved in my church?**
 - a. **GO** to church each week with your family. Read Hebrews 10:24-25.
 - b. **PRAY** for your church family regularly. Read Acts 2:42.
 - c. **GIVE** an offering each week to support the activities and ministries (ways we help people) of the church. Read I Corinthians 16:1-2.
 - d. **HELP** your church family in practical ways using the special abilities that God has given you. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

We Welcome You Into God's Family!



Date

Print Child's Name

Has successfully completed the course
"Jesus, Baptism, and ME",
and is ready to follow the Lord Jesus in Christian Baptism.

Parent: _____

Pastor: _____

Church: _____

Jesus, Baptism, and ME...

Foundational Principles for Young Believers

“It should be our goal to place an eternal imprint of Jesus’ love in the hearts of children. This practical interactive study guide does just that! Demonstrating what it means for a child to know Jesus and how they can obediently and joyfully follow Him in Water Baptism. Take some time to prayerfully review and share. You will be glad you did.”

Rick Wulfestieg

Director of The Children’s Gospel Box, Pastor,
National Director of Foursquare Christian Education (1987-2003)

Books in the series...

