



# Baptism MILESTONE

11th Grade Sunday School Class

*"How do I share my story?"*



HFFBC Student Ministries

# MILESTONES

*An Intentional Journey with  
Children/Youth to Build Faith  
that Lasts a Lifetime*



## What is MILESTONES?

Milestones is not a new program. Rather, it is a *path* for children, youth, parents & the church at-large to walk on together. It aims to put children & youth at the center of church life, celebrating 'rites of passage' (developmental & spiritual) in special ways as the whole church. Its aim is to build in students a faith in Christ & a love for the Church that lasts a lifetime.



## Who is MILESTONES for?

### PARENTS

Milestones **facilitates partnership** with parents as they disciple their children at home.

### STUDENTS

Milestones **celebrates opportunities** for children & youth to be increasingly involved in church life.

### THE CHURCH

Milestones **encourages** every member of the congregation to **champion and learn from** students as they grow in faith.



## The MILESTONES Path



### Baptism (11th grade)

- Students & parents are invited to a special yearly seminar to learn more about what baptism is & how to begin taking steps towards being baptized by immersion as a lifelong believer in Christ.
- **SQ: "How do I share my story?"**

## To Parents - why are you here?!

*How should I prepare my kids for baptism?*

## The responsibility of parents regarding baptism is to...

1. **Not to provoke** your kids (Col. 3:21), but to instead...
2. **Pray** for & **raise** your kids to know the Lord & His ways (Eph. 6:4)
3. **Imitate** to your kids what a true life journey of faith looks like - a **life of repentance, forgiveness, confession, faith, perseverance, boldness, love & hope** (Titus 2:11-14)
4. **Communicate** intentionally about sin & grace
5. **Celebrate** your kids' growing faith & imitate it! (Luke 18)
6. Bring them to the **Church** for worship, fellowship, growth, and Communion
7. Encourage progression towards **baptism** as genuine public evidence of faith in Christ (Gal. 3:27)

## To Students - why are you here?!

*When can I be baptized? What does it mean?*

## You can be **baptized** when...

You **desire** to be baptized & to **identify** with Jesus & His Church

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

**Galatians 3:27**

"What prevents me from being baptized?" **Acts 8:36**

You **understand** what baptism is & what it **means**

"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" **1 Peter 3:21**

You have **talked it through** & **agree** with your believing parents

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise)" **Ephesians 6:1-2**

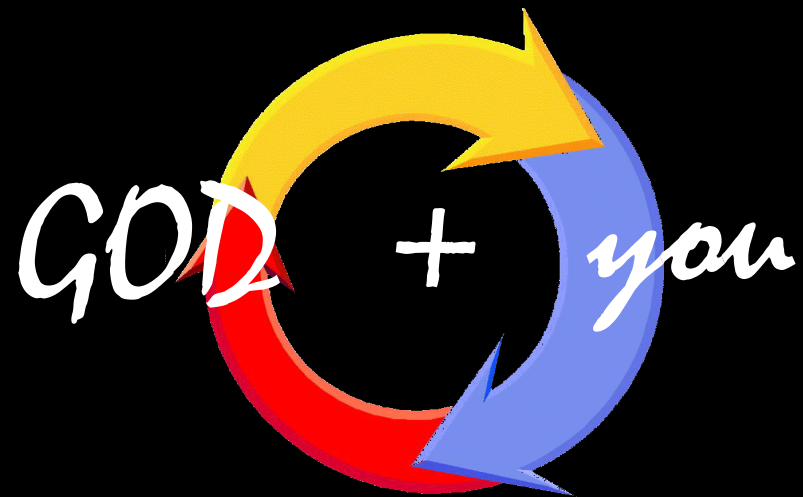
## What's Perrin doing here?

*What role does a church elder play in baptism?*

## Baptism & Your Story

*How do you share your story?*

A faith story/testimony = 2 things



# GOD'S Story = *The Gospel*



# Your Story



1. What was your childhood like? Key moments?
2. In general, what was your life like before knowing Christ?
3. How did Jesus make Himself known to you? What happened?
4. What is the Gospel, clearly articulated?
5. What has your life been like since knowing Jesus?
6. What challenges do you still face even after becoming a follower of Christ?
7. Where do you sense God is leading you and why?

## Baptism

### What is it?

Baptism is a holy **ordinance** established by Jesus Himself as a way for believers to **celebrate** their relationship with God, to **physically signify** the spiritual cleansing that Jesus has won and brought about for His people, and to **publicly proclaim** as a testimony to the world of the believer's faith in Christ alone for eternity.

## A holy ordinance established by Jesus

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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**

## to celebrate

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by **baptism** into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in **newness of life**. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, **we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**”

**Romans 6:3-5**

## to physically signify spiritual cleansing

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

**Titus 3:5-6**

## & publicly proclaim faith in Christ alone

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

“Baptism signifies a believer’s union with Christ, by grace through faith, and all the benefits that result from that union. It testifies and announces that one has entered into the realities of the new covenant and as such, has experienced regeneration, the gift and down-payment of the Spirit, and the forgiveness of sin. It graphically signifies that a believer is now a member of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:22-25). It is our defining mark of belonging as well as a demarcation from the world. It signifies entry into the eschatological order of the new creation—that which our Lord Jesus Christ has ushered in. In all of these ways, baptism is a beautiful God-given rite which displays, proclaims, and testifies to the reality of the **gospel**.”

**Stephen Wellum**, *Professor of Christian Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

## *What does the Bible say about baptism?*

- at least 80 specific references in the NT to “baptism” or “to baptize”
- but many many many other references (hundreds) in OT & NT that refer to being “washed” or “cleansed” or “purified” etc.
- being “washed” in the Bible (esp. by water) is almost always a symbol of being made “**holy**” and cleansed from sin
- ultimately, true baptism is described as the **baptism of the Holy Spirit** as given by Jesus, not water
- finally, there will be an **final washing** that will cleanse eternally and provide forever access to true living water



### Question 45

**Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?**

No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

“And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.” ¶ When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash** their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.” So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they **washed** their garments.

**Exodus 19:9-14**

“You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for **washing**. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall **wash** their hands and their feet. When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall **wash** with water, so that they may not die. They shall **wash** their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations.”

**Exodus 30:17-21**

“And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.”

**Leviticus 16:19**

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God”

**Psalms 46:4**

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity, and **cleanse** me from my sin!... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be **clean**; **wash** me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

**Psalms 51:1-2, 7**

“John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and fire.”

**Luke 3:16**

“and the **Holy Spirit** descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

**Luke 3:22**

“Then he poured water into a basin and began to **wash** the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you **wash** my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You shall never **wash** my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not **wash** you, you have no share with me.”

**John 13:5-8**

“for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

**Acts 1:5**



“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for **baptizing** these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.”

**Acts 10:44-48**

“And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

**1 Corinthians 6:11**

“For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**”

**Galatians 3:27-28**

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed** with the promised **Holy Spirit**”

**Ephesians 1:13**

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

**Ephesians 4:4-6**

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

**Titus 3:5-6**

“**Baptism**, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

**1 Peter 3:21**

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled **clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies **washed** with pure **water**.”

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

"the blood of Jesus **cleanses** us from all sin"

**1 John 1:7**

"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in **white** robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have **washed** their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

**Revelation 7:13-14**

"Blessed are those who **wash** their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates."

**Revelation 22:14**

**The Bible Project - "Sacrifice & Atonement"**



## Two Views on Baptism

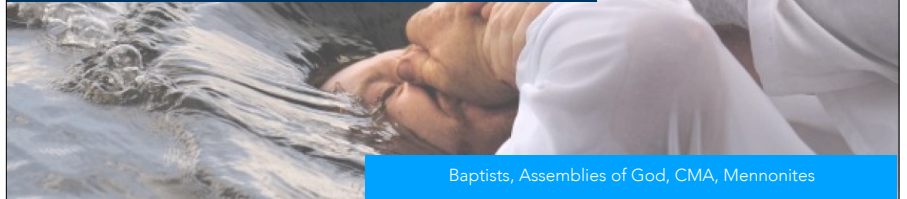
### Infant ("paedo") Baptism



Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Episcopalians

BOTH: Congregationalists, ECC, EFCA

### Believer's ("credo") Baptism



Baptists, Assemblies of God, CMA, Mennonites

"Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his death? We were buried therefore with him by **baptism** into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:3-5

### Infant ("paedo") Baptism



*the process*

- Children of believers are baptized shortly after birth
  - Connected to the idea of *circumcision* in the OT
  - Strong emphasis on being part of God's covenant people
- Children are raised in the church to grow in faith
  - Sunday school classes, learning catechisms, youth groups etc.
- Children enter into a Confirmation class (~8th grade)
  - Process of understanding faith, Communion, baptism, & the church
- Children can become members of the church after being *confirmed*

### Believer's ("credo") Baptism



*the process*

- Children of believers are *dedicated* shortly after birth
  - Connected to the idea of *blessing* in the OT
  - Strong emphasis on the responsibility of the church to grow children in the knowledge of the Lord
- Children are raised in the church to grow in faith
  - Sunday school classes, learning catechisms, youth groups etc.
- Children & families are partnered with in "**Milestones**"
  - Process of understanding faith, Communion, baptism, & the church
- Children can become members of the church after being *baptized*

## The Case for Believer's Baptism only (not infants)

"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also *raised with him through faith* in the powerful working of God" **Colossians 2:11-12**

No examples in New Testament of infant baptism (only church history afterwards)



No *direct* correlation in Scripture of entrance into the covenant community from covenant with Abraham to New Covenant

## The Case for Believer's Baptism only (not infants)

There *is* direct correlation in Scripture of **baptism with faith** and the **new life** that comes as a result of faith in Christ alone.

"for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." **Galatians 3:26-27**



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." **2 Cor. 5:17**

## The Case for Baptism by Immersion Only (\*as opposed to sprinkling or pouring)



### Baptism by Immersion

just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a **resurrection** like his." **Romans 6:3-5**

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his **death**? We were **buried** therefore with him by baptism into **death**, in order that,



## *Immersion*

- Word "baptism" in Greek means "dip" or "immerse"
- Immersion was the primary mode of baptism for the early church

"And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went *down into the water*, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him." **Acts 8:36-37**

"John also baptizing at Aeon, near Salim, *because water was plentiful there.*" **John 3:23**



## **Baptism & the Holy Spirit** *What's the power of baptism?*

## *The Power of Baptism*

- **Baptism is a *Symbol***
  - of the death & resurrection of Jesus
  - of what God has accomplished
  - washing/cleansing from sin
  - entrance into the body of Christ, the Church
- **The *Holy Spirit* is the Believer's Power, which baptism publicly symbolizes**
  - Matt. 3:11 - is the true baptism
  - Titus 3:5-6 - brings regeneration
  - Acts 1:8 - brings power to be His witnesses
  - Acts 10:47 - unifies people into one faith under one baptism

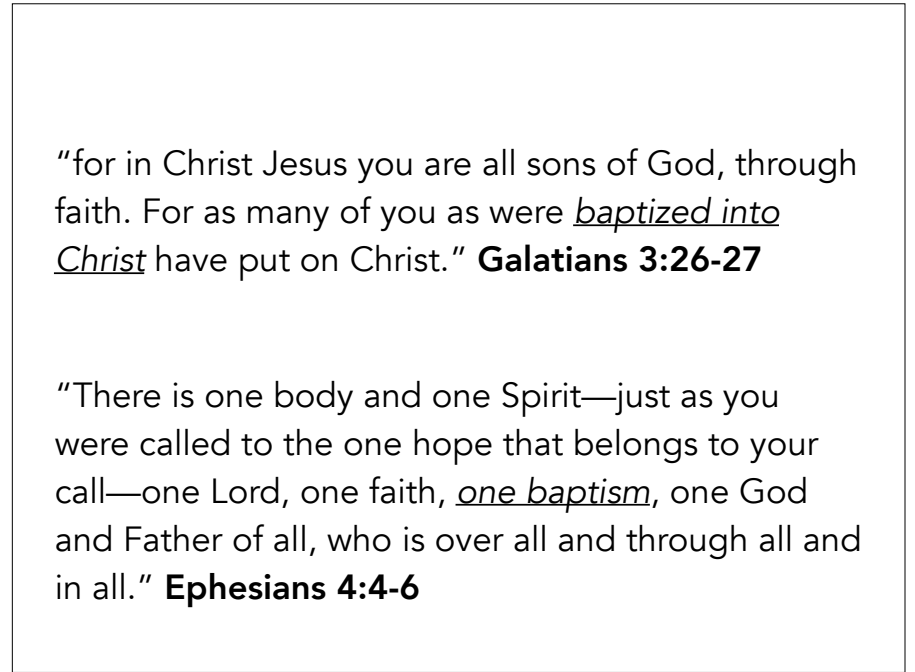
## *The Power of Baptism*

"If the **Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through his Spirit** who dwells in you." **Romans 8:11**



## Baptism & the Church

*What's the importance of the local church in this?*



“for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ.” **Galatians 3:26-27**

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, *one baptism*, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” **Ephesians 4:4-6**



## Baptism at HFFBC

*How do we do it?*



## When, Where, How, Why at HFFBC?

- **When?** Twice a year (June & December on Wednesday nights)
- **Where?** Chapel baptismal fount
- **How?** By immersion for those with credible evidence of faith in Christ and a testimony to share
- **Why?** Baptism enters a believer into the fellowship of believers (the church) and to the encouragement, challenge, accountability, joy, and celebration community that it is. It is right for the local church then to be the one to publicly perform this beautiful rite of passage!



## Student Baptism Process Preparation at HFFBC:

1. Attend "Baptism Milestone" class.
2. Review and accept the materials & resources provided in the "Baptism Milestone" packet provided.
3. Believing parents & believing children agree.
4. Attend "Baptism Overview" session of the "HFFBC New Members Class."
5. Walk through Baptism Preparation material with approved Mentor or Pastor.
6. Prepare written testimony.
7. Baptism Service & Celebration!



## Next New Members Class

*(which talks about baptism at HFFBC)*

next Sunday **April 15 at 5pm**

Before then, parents & students:

- 1) **talk openly** about faith, baptism, and steps to take for lifelong faith
- 2) **pray** together
- 3) Talk to any of us pastors to discuss **baptism**



# Q & A





"Lord, in humble, sweet submission,  
Here we meet to follow thee;  
Trusting in thy great salvation,  
Which alone can make us free.  
Nought have we to claim as merit;  
All duties we can do  
Can no crown of life inherit;  
All the praise to thee is due.

Yet we come in Christian duty,  
Down beneath the wave to go;  
O the bliss! The heavenly beauty!  
Christ the Lord was buried so.  
Come ye children of the kingdom,  
Follow him beneath the wave;  
Rise, and show his resurrection,  
And proclaim his power to save."

*hymn by Robert T. Daniel*