

SESSION 2: WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The Bible says we should be baptized once we have trusted Jesus as our Savior. God wants us to tell others about our faith, and baptism is the first thing He commands us to do.

Read the following verse:

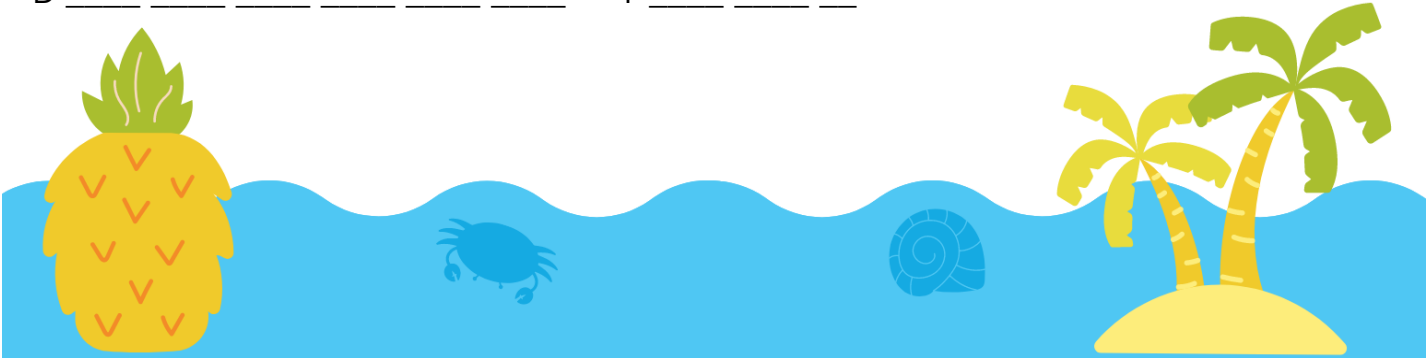
"So, you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
Matthew 28:19 (NIRV).

What are the three things we are told to do after we are saved?

G ____

M _____ D _____

B _____ T _____





There are many examples in the Bible of people who invited Jesus into their lives and were baptized.

Did you know that Jesus was baptized?

Read Matthew 3:13-17

Questions:

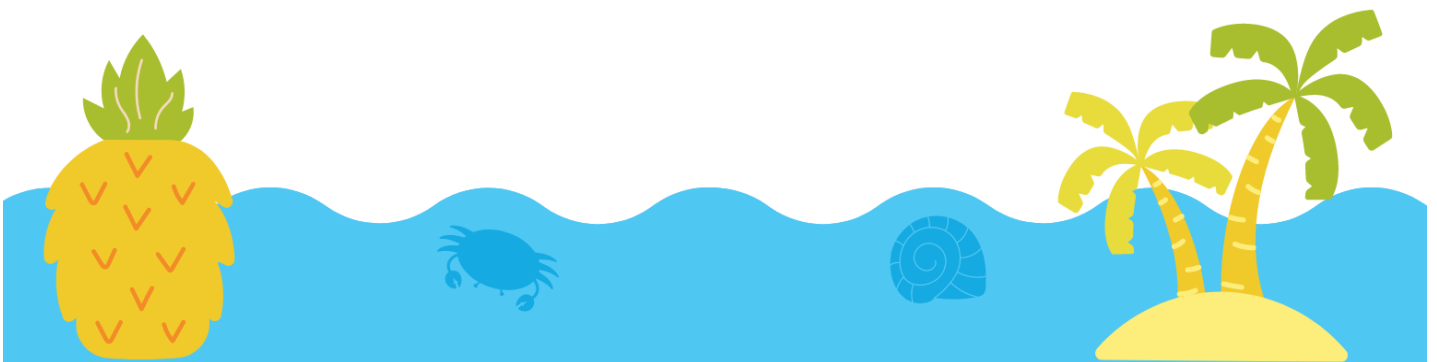
Who baptized Jesus? J ____ ____ ____.



Why do you think that Jesus wanted to be baptized?

How did God feel about Jesus being baptized?

He was very P ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Acts 8:26-27. Look up the verses in your Bible and read them together. Stop to answer the questions in between.



What did the angel tell Philip to do? _____

Who did Philip meet on the way? _____

Why had the Ethiopian official traveled to Jerusalem? _____

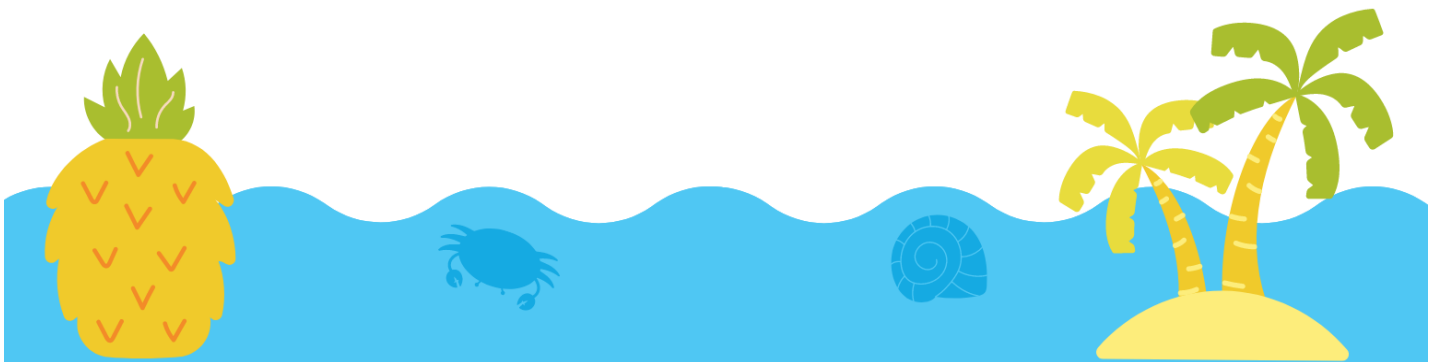
Read Acts 8:28-29

What was the official reading? The book of I _____.

When they first met, the official was reading from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. These verses had been written more than 700 years before.

What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?

Go to the C _____.





Read Acts 8:30-33 [Quoting Isaiah 53:7,8].

Who do you think Isaiah was talking about? J ____ _ .

Read Acts 8:34-35

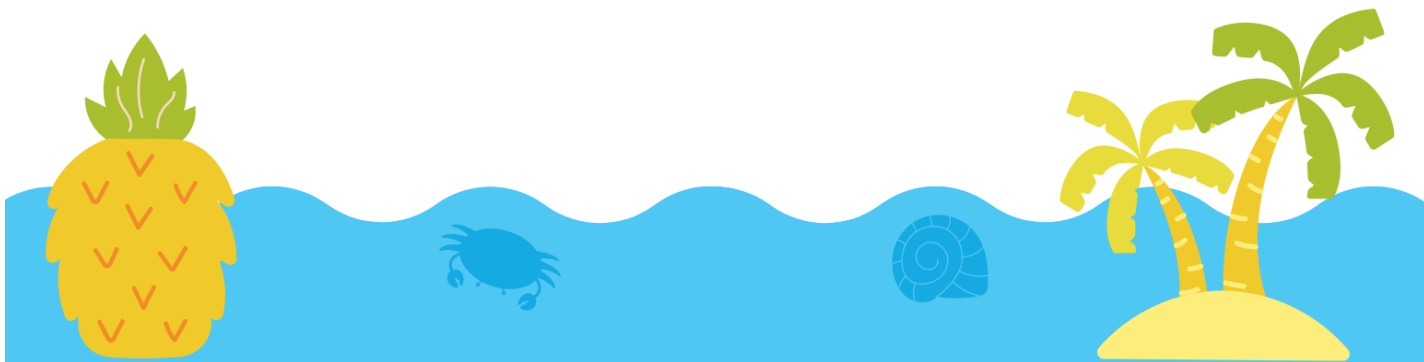
What did the official ask Philip? _____

What do you think was good news that Philip shared with the official?

Did the official DO anything after hearing the good news? YES NO

How long did he wait before being baptized? _____

The first thing God asks of us after we trust in Him is to be baptized. Baptism is a public way to show others we have trusted in Jesus. It tells other people that we have trusted in Jesus to save us.





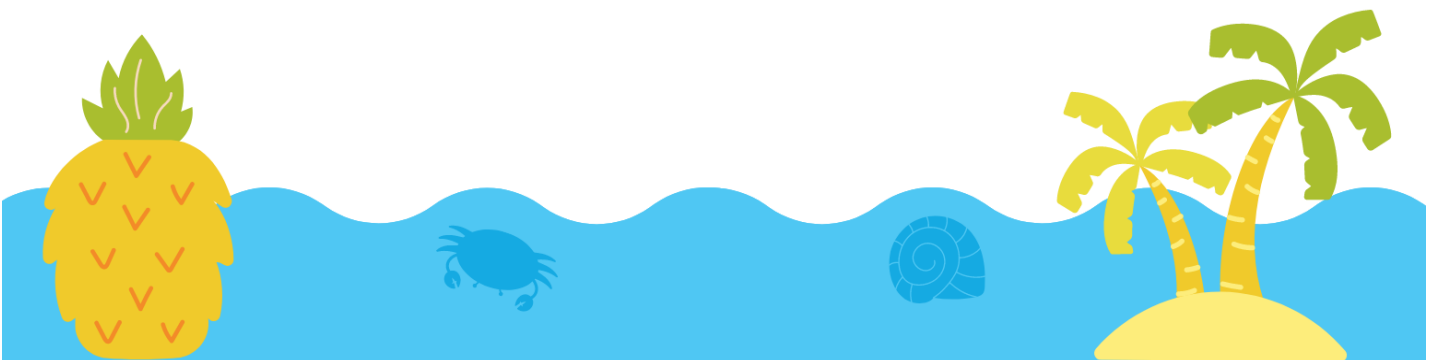
Read Acts 2:41-42



The apostle Peter had been telling people about Jesus, and some “accepted” (believed) his message.

How many people believed and were baptized that day? _____

What did they do after they were baptized? _____





WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

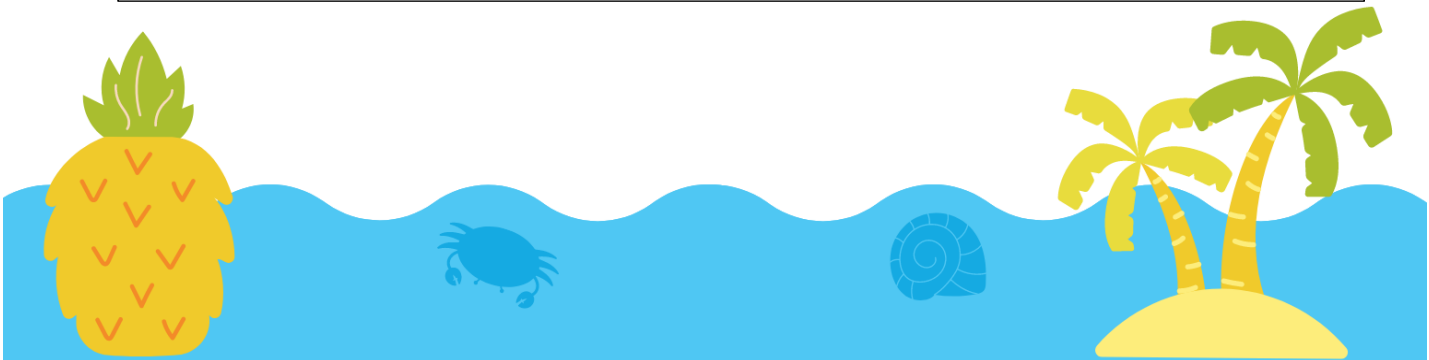
1. Baptism is a Picture

Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

After dying on the cross for our sins, Jesus was buried. They took His body and lowered it in the ground. Then, three days later, He came back to life. He was resurrected. He rose from the dead.

*“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
We were therefore **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 6:3-6.*

Jesus was buried in the ground	You are lowered into the water
Jesus was resurrected.	You are lifted up out of the water.





When you are baptized, you will be lowered briefly into the water. Then the pastor will lift you back up, out of the water, symbolizing Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

The word "baptism" means "to immerse" or to "dip in water." When people are baptized, they are "immersed" into the water. It is a picture of what has already happened when you believed in Jesus.

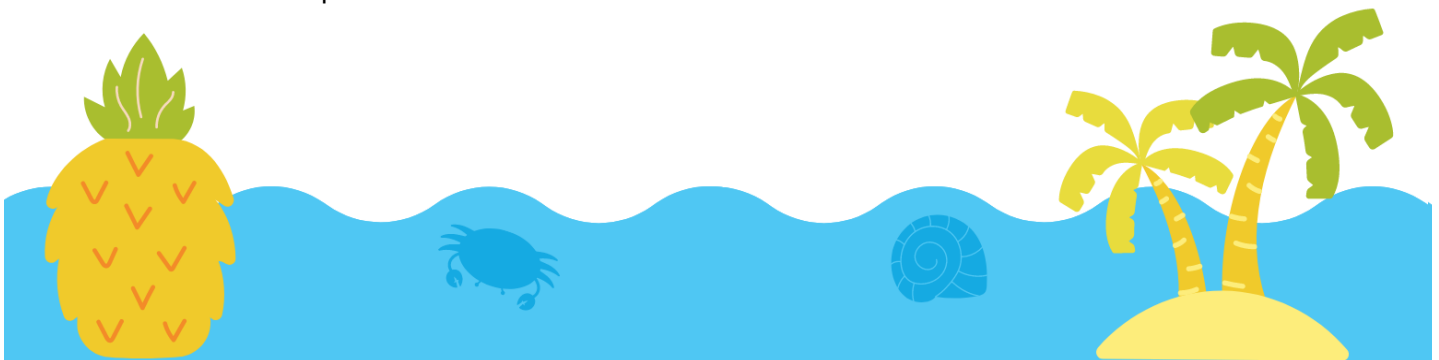
It is also a picture of something new. Read these verses.

*"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized **INTO HIS DEATH?***

*We were, therefore, 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 6:3-6.

What were we baptized into? Jesus' D ____ ____ ____ ____.





Baptism also represents the death of our old life and the beginning of a new life with Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross

Death of our old life of sin

Jesus was raised back to life

Beginning of our new life in Jesus

The most important thing to understand is that baptism doesn't save you. Remember that Jesus Himself was baptized,



Did Jesus need to be saved from sin? (Circle One)

YES

NO

Why do you think He was baptized? _____

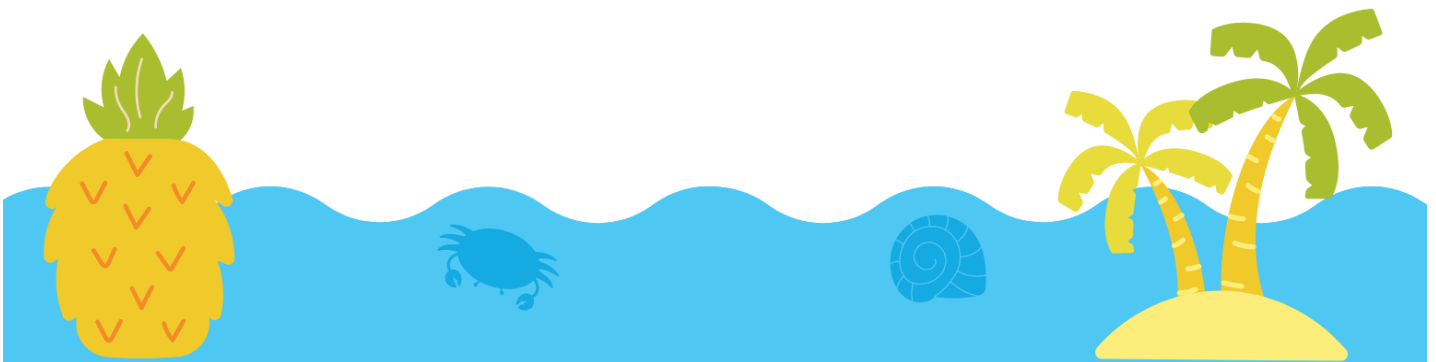
Does baptism save us?

YES

NO

What saves us from our sin penalty? _____

Baptism shows other people that you are **ALREADY** saved. It is an outward display of what has already taken place inwardly.



2. Baptism is a Symbol

A Wedding Ring

Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is a symbol of something that has already happened. It is an outward demonstration of the love that a husband has in his heart for his wife and the wife for her husband and tells the world that they are married. The rings are worn as an outward sign of their marriage.



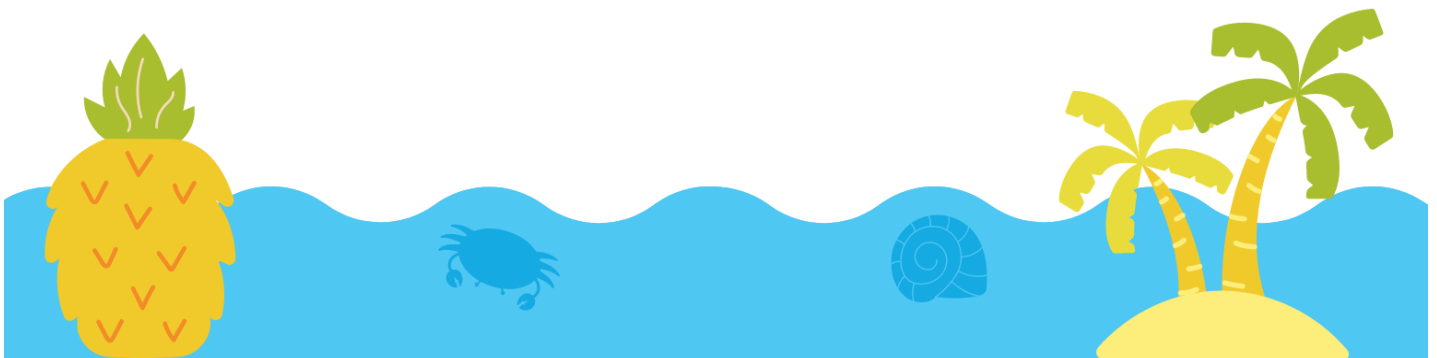
Does wearing a wedding ring make you married?

YES

NO

What does it tell people? _____

A wedding ring is a symbol that lets people know you are married.
In the same way, baptism is also a symbol.





Sports Team Jersey

Wearing a sports team jersey is also a symbol.



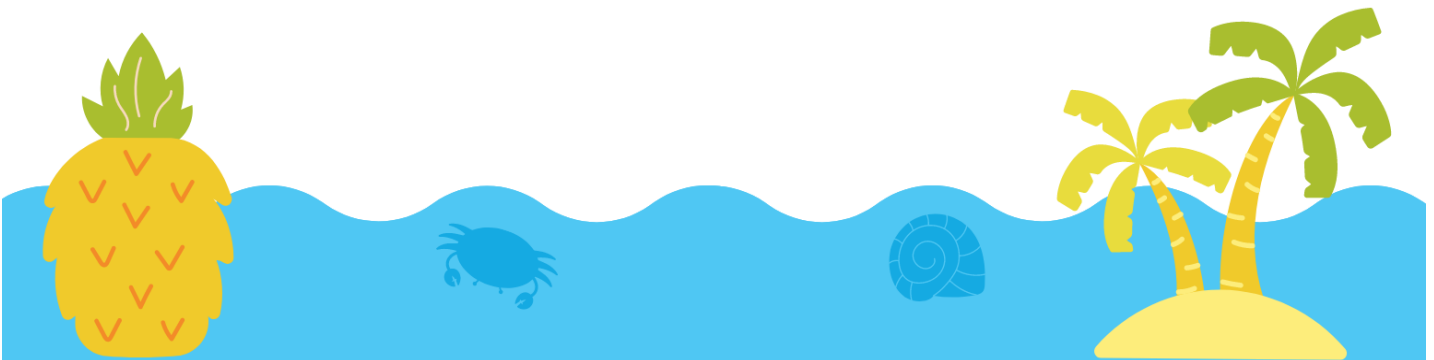
Why do people wear a sports jersey with their team's name on it during a game?

Getting baptized is like putting on a sports team jersey.

You are telling everyone that you are on Jesus' team. You belong to Him.

It doesn't make you a Christian.

Baptism is simply a way to show people on the outside what has happened to you on the inside. It just tells everyone that you believe in Jesus and want to live for Him. It's a symbol of your love for Jesus.





WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET BAPTIZED?

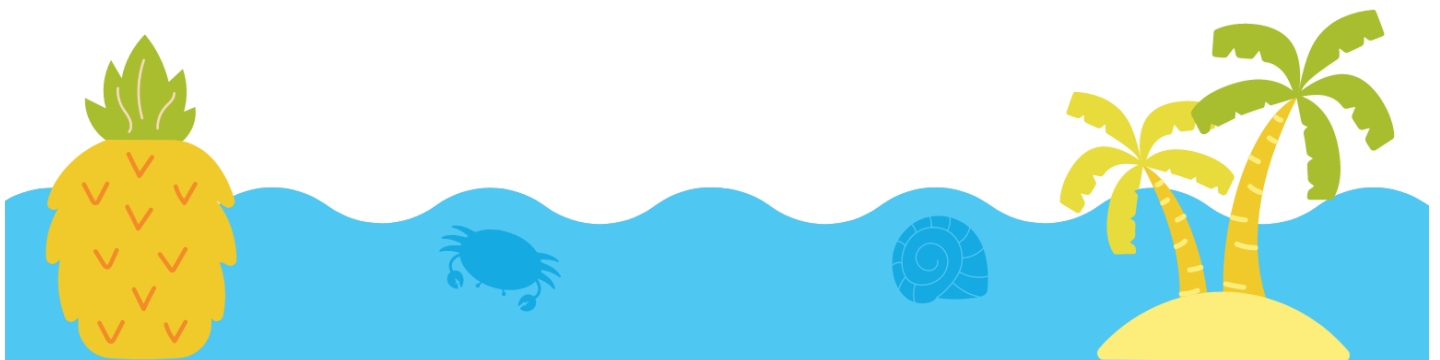
Baptisms are different from church to church. Many churches will baptize people by “immersion.” That means that when you are baptized, you will go under the water.

The pastor [or perhaps someone else] will ask if you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior. Then you will walk down into the water, and they will lower you down so you go under it. Others might do it a different way.

Whatever method is used, the Bible makes it clear that it is a demonstration of something that has already happened.

Have you seen a baptism before? What happened?

Break into your small groups and answer the following questions.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



1. What does the wedding ring illustration teach us?

2. What does the sports team jersey illustration teach us about baptism?

3. Why should you get baptized?

4. What does it show everyone?

5. What does "going under the water" and "coming back up" represent?

Come back together as a class and share your answers with the group.



SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Thought Questions



How do you know if you are ready to be baptized?

The answer to that question depends on you.

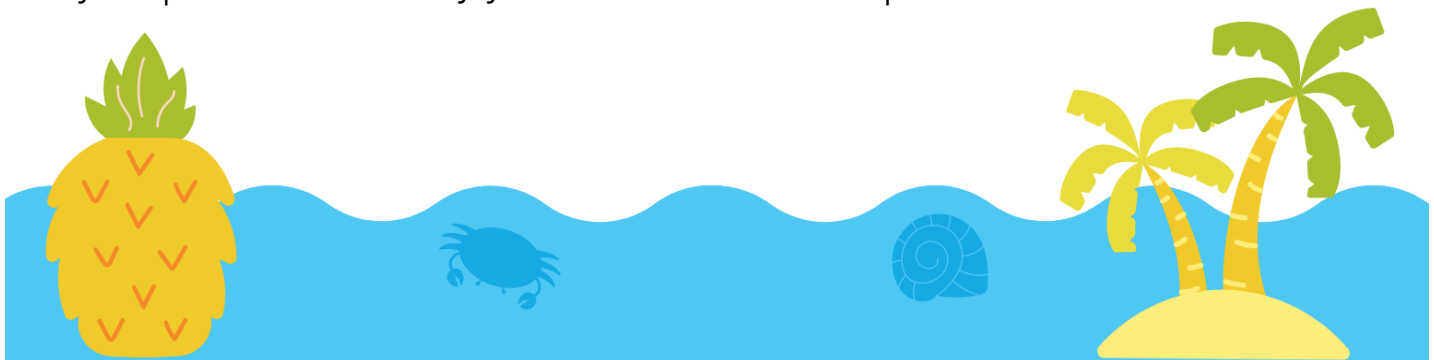
Have you trusted in Jesus to save you?

Yes	Not Sure	No
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If you were to die tonight, are you sure that you would go to heaven?

Yes	Not Sure	No
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If the answer to both questions is "Yes," then you are ready to be baptized. Talk to your parents about why you would like to be baptized.





Memory Verse

Try to learn this Bible verse. It's a great reminder that eternal life is a FREE gift that we cannot earn.

*"For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith,
and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8 [NIV].*



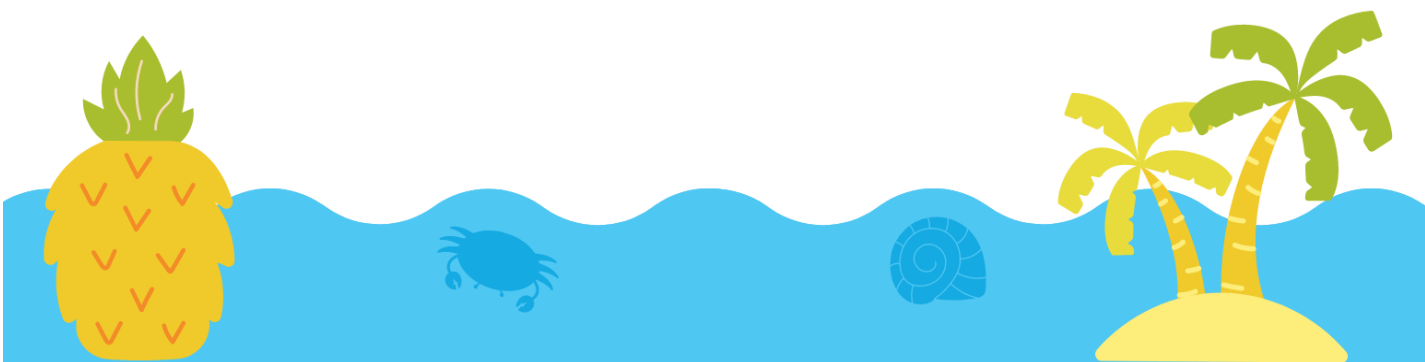


MY SALVATION STORY

To prepare for baptism, spend some time in the next week writing out your "Salvation Story."



What was it like before you became a Christian? How did you learn about Jesus?





How did you become a Christian? When and where were you?

