

TRADERS POINT KIDS

FAITH COMMITMENT AND BAPTISM WORKBOOK

HELLO!

If you're reading this, you're most likely a parent, grandparent, or caring adult who is walking alongside a child that wants to learn what it means to follow Jesus and be baptized. We're so excited for your family! To start this journey, watch the provided video, "How to Talk to My Child About Baptism," then go through this workbook together at your own pace.

This workbook is designed to guide you and your child through conversations about the gospel, baptism, and what it means to start following Jesus. You'll find questions to discuss, activities to do together, glossary of terms, and Scripture to read. It's meant to be fun and a way for you to grow in your faith together! We encourage you to read through it all on your own before going through it with your child.

The workbook is broken up into six sections that teach the gospel message and our response to it:

- 1. God made it.**
- 2. We broke it.**
- 3. Jesus fixed it.**
- 4. We receive it.**
- 5. Getting baptized**
- 6. Additional topics**

Each section starts with a "Big Question." You'll review this question at the end of each section to see how your child understands the content. You'll notice that each section guides you on what to do, ask, say, and pray.

We recommend working through each section in order. If your child has questions that you don't know the answer to, that's okay! We've left space for questions at the end of each section. After completing the workbook, you'll talk with a Traders Point Kids staff member, so bring your questions and we'll work through them together!

When it comes to reading the Bible with your child, there are many versions to choose from! This workbook uses the New Living Translation (NLT). If you are looking for a good Bible geared towards elementary aged children, we recommend the "Hands On Bible (NLT)."

Your child might complete the workbook and decide he or she is ready to get baptized – great! You might also finish and decide your child is not yet ready to be baptized. That's okay, too! We all grow at a different pace and there's no need to rush a child through the process. No matter what you and your child decide, keep encouraging him/her to grow in a relationship with Jesus by reading the Bible, hearing biblical teaching, being in community with other Christians, and talking to God through prayer. Continue to find ways to talk about Jesus with your child at home!

Following Jesus is a big step and it's the start of the best adventure! Our prayer is that you have fun learning about Jesus together and make faith a part of your everyday conversations at home.

Let's get started!

[Don't forget to watch the "How to Talk to My Child About Baptism" video before going through the workbook.]

GOD MADE IT

GOD IS PERFECT, AND HE CREATED A PERFECT WORLD.

Big Question: When I say, "God is perfect," what does that mean to you?

What you need: Bible, drawing paper, crayons/colored pencils

Say: God made the world and everything in it. The Bible tells us that God, being so full of love, wanted to create the world and people. He did this because He wanted to share His love. Let's read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 together. As I'm reading the Bible verses out loud, I want you to draw pictures or write words on your paper that describe how God created the world.

Do: Have your child draw pictures and words as you read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 out loud.

Say: Show me what you drew or wrote and tell me more about your paper.

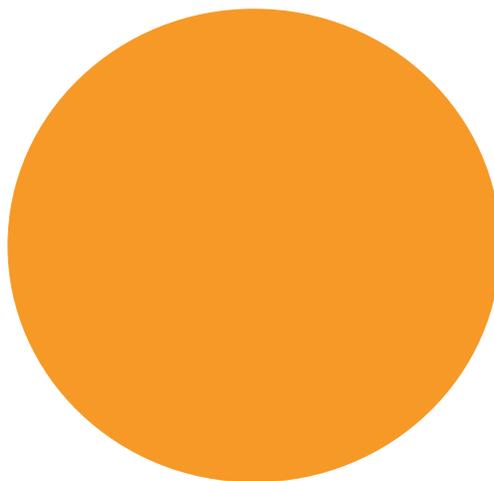
Ask: What does it mean to be perfect? (Note: If your child struggles with this answer, you can explain that perfect means it can't get any better; there are no mistakes.) What things did God create that remind you He is perfect? (Examples: sunrise and flowers)

Do: Have your child read Psalm 18:30 out loud to you.

Say: We learned from what we just read in the Bible that God's way is perfect, and He created a perfect world. Let's try this activity together.

What you need: 2 blindfolds (you can use hand towels or long socks), pencils, paper, and timer

Say: I want you to look at this circle.



Say: Now we will both put a blindfold on to cover our eyes. When I say, "Go," let's do our best to quickly draw a circle as perfect as the one above.

Do: Play the game with your child. After you both draw, take off the blindfolds and look at both circles. Compare your drawings and the original circle. (Note: For older kids, you can expand the activity by trying to draw the circle as fast as possible. Or draw with their non-dominant hand. No matter how many times they draw the circle, they can't do it perfectly.)

Ask: What do you notice about our circles and the original circle? Our circles aren't perfect, are they? Why do you think we can't make a perfect circle if God created us perfectly?

Say: We can look around our world today and see that things are no longer perfect. We'll soon find out why things aren't perfect anymore. Let's pray and thank God for creating the world and us perfectly.

Pray: God, thank You for making the world and everything in it. Thank You for creating so many amazing things and wanting to share Your love with people. Thank You for creating us, loving us, and wanting to have a relationship with us. We love You, amen.

Review the Big Question: When I say, "God is Perfect," what does that mean to you?

Say: What questions or thoughts do you have about God being perfect and creating a perfect world? (Record on Questions/Thoughts page.)



WE BROKE IT

BECAUSE OF SIN, THE PERFECTION OF CREATION IS BROKEN.

Big Question: What do you think sin is and how has it affected you?

Say: We learned that God created the world and people to be perfect because He is perfect. Adam and Eve were the first people God created and He loved being in a perfect relationship with them. God told them not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But Adam and Eve were deceived by a snake who wanted them to disobey God and eat the fruit. They listened to the snake and chose to disobey God and eat fruit from that tree. When they chose to do it their way instead of God's way, this was sin. When Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit, they broke the perfect relationship between God and His people. Since that time, every person who has been born has a sin nature. Our sin nature is what causes us to say, think, and do things that go against God and who He is.

Do: Read Romans 3:23 together.

Say: Romans 3:23 tells us that all people have sinned. We sin because we are born sinful. And our sin separates us from having a perfect relationship with Him. Sin not only separates us from a perfect relationship with God, but also with people, creation, and ourselves. This is why we can look around our world today and see that things aren't perfect.

Ask: Can you think of an example of a time you sinned?

What you need: Bible, drawing paper, crafting supplies, glue or tape (During this activity, your child will be making a masterpiece. If your child does not like to make crafts, he/she could build something with Legos, blocks, other materials from home, etc.)

Do: Have your child create a "masterpiece" with supplies you have at home. (Note: The goal of this activity is for your child to destroy his/her masterpiece. Your child may need advance notice that he/she will be destroying the masterpiece at the end of the activity. If your child doesn't want to destroy the masterpiece, you can still achieve the same goal by talking about it.)

Ask: How would you feel if I told you that your punishment for the sin you just told me about is ruining your masterpiece?

Do: Ruin (rip, shred, knock down, etc.) the masterpiece together. Listen to how your child felt about it. Have your child read Romans 6:23 out loud to you.

Say: The payment for your sin was ruining your masterpiece. Romans 6:23 told us that the wages of sin is death. The word wages means payment, so the payment for our sin is death and separation from God. That's WAY worse than ruining your masterpiece! God doesn't want us to be separated from Him. He loves us too much for that! God created a way to save us from having to pay for our sin, which is what we'll talk about next.

Pray: God, we are so thankful that You love us so much, even though we are sinners. Thank You for finding a way to save us. We love You, amen.

Review the Big Question: What do you think sin is and how has it affected you?

Say: What questions or thoughts do you have about being separated from God because of sin? (Record on Questions/Thoughts page.)

JESUS FIXED IT

JESUS FIXED THE SEPARATION BETWEEN US AND GOD THAT IS CAUSED BY OUR SIN.

Big Question: How did Jesus fix the problem of your sin?

Say: We learned that our sin separates us from God, creation, others, and ourselves. God chose to save us from the punishment of our sin because He loves us so much. God sent his Son, Jesus, to live on earth among people. But unlike us, Jesus was perfect in every way, because He's God's Son. He never sinned. And even though He was perfect, people didn't believe that He was God's Son. They decided to kill Jesus. When Jesus died on a cross, He took the punishment for our sins. Only Jesus could take our punishment because He had no sin.

Say: The best part of the story is that even though Jesus died a painful death, He didn't stay dead! He came back to life three days later! When He did that, He conquered sin and death forever.

Do: Read John 3:16-17 out loud.

What you need: A piece of paper and writing utensil

Say: First, draw two mountains on the paper with a gap between the two mountains. Draw yourself on the top of one of the mountains. Then write the word "God" on the top of the other mountain.

Say: As you can see on your paper, there is no way for you to get to God this way. This separation between the two mountains is caused by sin. There is only one way to fix this separation. That is Jesus. Now, draw a cross in between the two mountains to make a bridge.

Do: Read 1 Peter 2:24 out loud as your child listens. Read it a second time together or have your child read it on his/her own.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus died for us, and why is it so important?

Pray: God, thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus to die on the cross in my place. I'm so thankful that because of Jesus, I don't have to be separated from You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Review the Big Question: How did Jesus fix the problem of your sin?

Say: What questions or thoughts do you have about Jesus dying on the cross and coming back to life to save us from the punishment of our sin? (Record on Questions/Thoughts page.)

WE RECEIVE IT

WHEN WE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND REPENT, WE ARE A CHILD OF GOD!

Big Question: How do you receive the free gift that God gives you?

Say: We learned that God is perfect and that our sin separates us from Him. But we also learned that Jesus fixed the separation between us and God by dying on the cross and coming back to life three days later. Because of this, we are no longer separated from God. Instead, we can be close to Him forever. This good news that we're learning about is called the gospel.

Do: Read Romans 10:9 together.

Say: Romans 10:9 tells us the importance of knowing who God is, believing Jesus is God's Son and trusting He died for our sins. It also tells us the importance of declaring our belief or saying it out loud to others.

Say: Once you believe the good news of the gospel in your heart and share your belief with others, it's time to take your next step. Let's do an activity together to learn more about that next step.

What you need: Bible, ball

Do: Have your child stand close to you. Toss the ball to your child and ask him/her to catch it. Have your child take a few steps back. Toss the ball again and have him/her catch the ball. On the third try, have your child stand far away from you. Toss the ball again and have him/her catch it.

Say: When I tossed the ball to you, did you stand still and let the ball hit you? Did you run away from the ball? No! When I threw the ball to you, you chose to reach out and catch it. You opened your hands to receive the ball from me. Just like catching the ball required a response from you (reaching out to catch it), the gospel we learned about requires a response too. Once you know and understand what Jesus has done for you, you can choose to receive it.

Do: Read Acts 3:19 together.

Ask: What do you think it means to repent?

Say: We have all done things we are not proud of. We are sinful and choose to do things our way instead of God's way. Repenting of your sin is knowing that you are a sinner and feeling regret for sinning. Then, you turn away from your sin and toward following God instead. (For example, admitting when you've done something wrong, saying "I'm sorry," and then depending on God for strength to not do it again.) When you repent and turn away from your sin, God forgives you!

Do: Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together.

Ask: Do we need to earn the gift God is offering us?

Say: Ephesians 2:8-9 explains that God gives us the free gift of His grace! We don't have to do anything to earn this free gift. In fact, there is nothing that we CAN do to earn it. It is a free gift that God offers to us when we believe in Him.

Do: Read John 1:12 and Acts 2:38 together.

Ask: What happens when you believe and accept the gift Jesus has given you?

Say: When you believe, repent, turn away from sin, and accept God's free gift of grace, then you become a part of God's family! You are His child. And like we read earlier in John 3:16, part of God's gift is eternal life. That means after you die, you will live in heaven with God forever!

Do: Read Ephesians 1:13-14 together.

Say: We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just like God and Jesus, the Holy Spirit can be difficult for our human minds to fully understand. In short, the Holy Spirit is God's personal presence. The Holy Spirit does many things for us. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, teaches us, helps us remember God's Word, and even prays for us!

What you need: Paper, crayons or markers (Optional: Spotify TPCC Kids playlist)

Say: Now that we've read the Bible and talked about the gospel, I want you to spend some time writing a letter to Jesus. What questions do you still have? What are you thankful for? What do you want to tell Jesus?

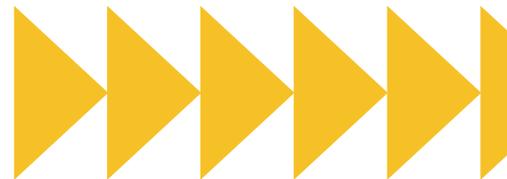
Do: Find a quiet spot for your child to write a letter to Jesus in response to today's Bible reading and discussion. You can play the Spotify playlist while your child writes the letter if you would like to. (Modification: For children who cannot write, your child can dictate their letter to you.) This activity will also help your child in sharing his/her faith story with others down the road.

Do: Read the letter your child wrote out loud together.

Note: Use this letter as a guide to see your child's understanding of the gospel. If you think your child understands all the parts of the gospel (God Made It, We Broke It, Jesus Fixed It, We Receive It) then move to Prayer 1 below. If your child doesn't understand all four parts of the gospel yet, continue to talk about it, encourage him/her to ask questions, pray Prayer 2 together, and come back to this workbook again another time.

Prayer 1: If your child is ready and would like to receive the gift of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, you can help lead your child in this prayer, "God, I believe that Jesus is Your Son and He is perfect, just like You. Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die for my sins on a cross and come back to life. I know I am a sinner and I'm asking You to forgive me. I want to turn from my sin and start following You. Because I'm making this decision today, I know that I am Your child. And I'm thankful for the gift of eternal life. I love You, amen."

Prayer 2: If your child isn't quite ready to receive the gift of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, you can help lead your child in this prayer, "God, thank You for giving me this chance to learn more about You. Give me wisdom and an open heart to understand more about who You are and what You've done for me. In Jesus' name, amen."



GETTING BAPTIZED

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Big Question: What is your next step after believing in Jesus and repenting?

What you need: Clear glass or cup, water, food coloring

Do: Add food coloring to the glass as you talk through this next section.

Say: Let's fill up this glass with water. This glass of water represents your heart. As you've learned about the gospel and believed, your heart has been changed. You know that God Made It. (Add one drop of food coloring.) You know that We Broke It. (Add another drop of food coloring.) You believe that Jesus Fixed It. (Add another drop of food coloring.) And You've Received It by believing the good news of the gospel. (Add another drop of food coloring and swirl it around.) Look, you can see how your heart has changed now that you are a child of God! Let's read these verses together and see how we can show others this change that's happened inside of you.

Do: Read Mark 1:4-5.

Say: Baptism is something we do to show the change that has happened in our hearts. Baptism shows we've repented of our sin and received Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Let's read some more Bible verses together to understand what baptism is.

Do: Read Acts 8:35-38.

Ask: What does someone do when they are baptized?

Say: Baptism is when a person goes underneath the water and then comes right back up.

Do: Read Matthew 10:32.

Ask: Is baptism something we do by ourselves?

Say: Baptism is a public display of our faith in Jesus to God, the church, and the world. It is best to be baptized around others who will love and support you.

Do: Read Romans 6:3-5.

Ask: What does baptism represent?

Say: Baptism is a picture of a person's union with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. Going down under the water represents Jesus' death and being buried. Coming up out of the water represents Jesus' resurrection.

Do: Read Acts 8:12.

Ask: Who gets baptized?

Say: Baptism is for anyone who believes in Jesus. We've learned a lot about what God's Word tells us about faith and baptism. As you think about whether or not you are ready to be baptized, answer the following questions:

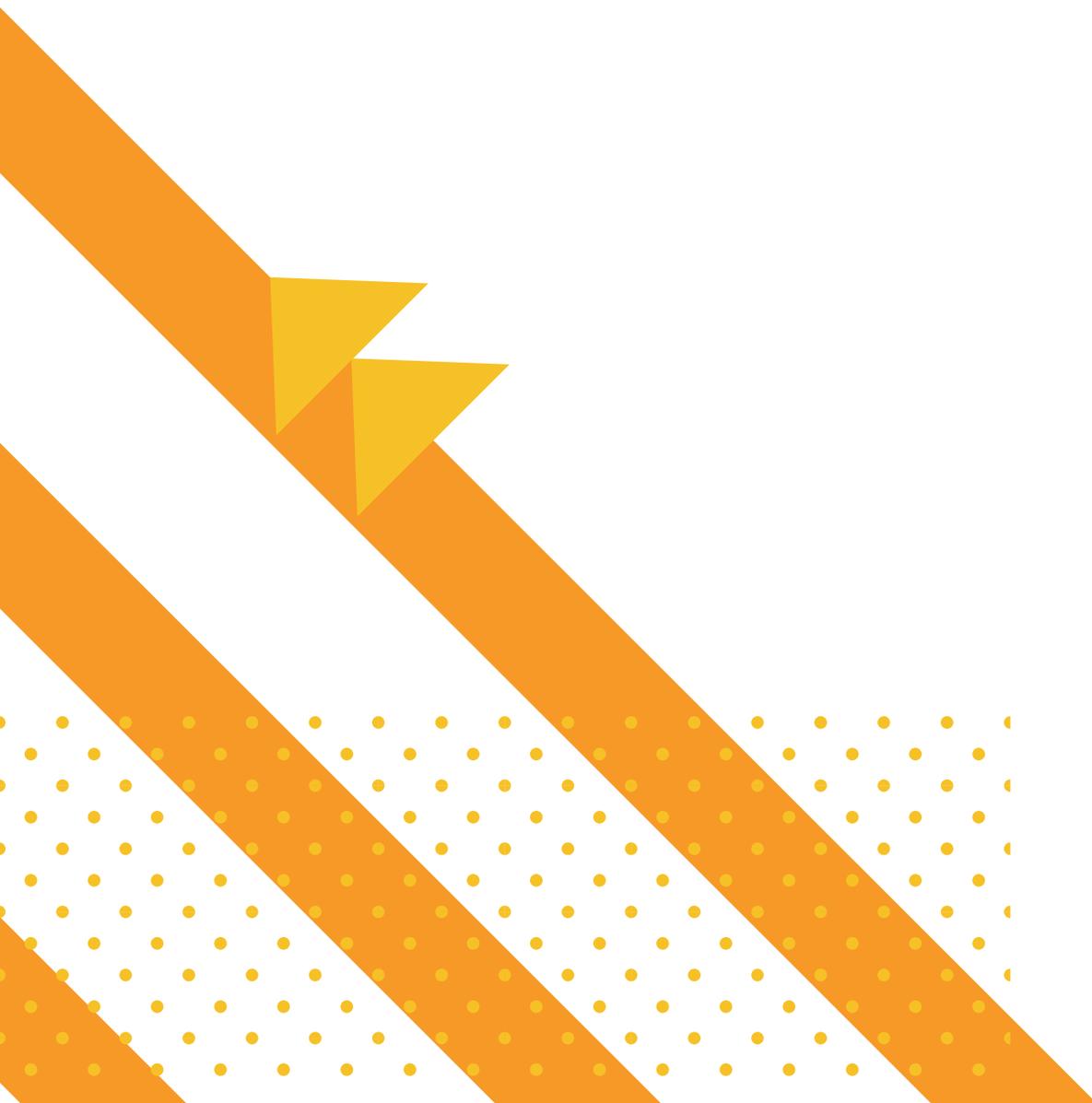
Ask: Who is Jesus and what did He do for you? Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? Can you explain what it means to be baptized? Why do you want to be baptized?

Pray: Pray the following words with your child, "Jesus, thank You for the Bible and what it teaches us about baptism. Thank You for what Jesus has done for me. I want to obey His commands and follow Him. Be with me as I take a next step in being baptized and showing everyone around me the decision I have made to live for You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Do: If your child is ready to be baptized, watch the "What is Baptism?" video together. Then, email kids@tpcc.org and you will be connected with a Traders Point Kids staff member. If your child is not ready to be baptized, that's okay! Keep the conversation going and continue to encourage your child in his/her faith journey.

Review the Big Question: What is your next step after believing in Jesus and repenting?

Say: What questions or thoughts do you have about getting baptized? (Record on Questions/Thoughts page.)



ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Communion is an opportunity to reflect on the gospel and what Jesus has done for us. We encourage you to take communion as a family once your child has given their life to Jesus. We provide communion at all of our physical campuses, but you can use any juice or cracker/bread to take at home. To learn more about communion, go to tpcc.org/communion.

Telling others about Jesus. Once we understand the good news of what Jesus has done for us, then we should be excited to share this news with others. Matthew 28:19-20 commands us to share the good news with all people. We encourage you to have conversations with your child about sharing their faith with friends and family who might not know the good news of Jesus' love for them.

Mistakes vs. Sin. Kids commonly confuse mistakes as sin. For example, a child could make the mistake of accidentally dropping and breaking a plate and then think they have sinned. However, that is not a sin. That is a mistake and mistakes are not sin. Sin is our human nature that causes us to say, think, and do things that go against God and who He is.

The trinity can be a difficult concept for our human minds to grasp. There is one God that exists as three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Each of these persons has distinct roles (which we see evidence of throughout the Bible) but are all fully God. While there is not an easy way to help your child grasp the trinity, consider this activity: Take an apple and cut it in half. Show your child the three parts of the apple: the seeds, the flesh and the skin. Even though each part of the apple is different and has a different role, all three parts ARE an apple.

Will I keep sinning? It is important to recognize that sinning is part of our imperfect humanity. We will continue to sin and be tempted to sin. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says we will continue to be tempted to sin; however, God will always provide a way out so we don't have to sin. As you grow in your relationship with God, you will notice that you will sin less; however, you will never be sinless. Our sin should drive us to repentance so we can be close to God. Our sin shouldn't drive us to shame where we feel distant from God. As a parent, you have a great opportunity to model this with your child.

Spiritual Disciplines. As a follower of Jesus, we should want to keep growing our relationship with Him. Attending church, praying, reading your Bible, sharing your faith with others, serving, and having relationships with other Christians are a few key disciplines to help us continually grow.