



BAPTISM BOOKLET

ALL IN

The *All In* booklet is a helpful guide as kids begin to ask questions about baptism and grow a desire to give their lives to Jesus. While this is a great tool to use as you engage in conversation, remember, it is just a tool. It's not a prerequisite for baptism and should not take the place of scripture. The workbook breaks into four sections, all designed to take approximately a week to complete. However, we encourage you to go at a pace fitting for you and your child.

All In is most effective and impactful when used to lead your child through this study. It will lose its purpose if you hand it off to your child and forget about it. Take this opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ, and let that be a shining example to your child as they begin to journey with Him.

TIPS

- 1** Read each section yourself before you start with your child. You'll be able to lead the discussions and activities if you are familiar with the material.
- 2** Take turns reading the scripture together. Let your kids read, but also be sure they hear you read from God's word.
- 3** Be present and listen to your child. Remember that growing in faith is a process. This study will help you understand your child and their beliefs better. It can also give insight on how to pray for them.
- 4** Foster a culture in your home where discussions can happen naturally, where your child feels comfortable and safe talking about Jesus. On a regular basis, share what Jesus means to you and how he continues to change you.

Above all, have fun with your child as they grow in Christ!

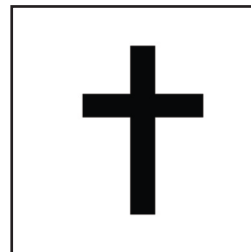
SECTIONS



GOD MADE IT



WE BROKE IT



JESUS FIXED IT



NOW WHAT

GOD MADE IT

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 wanted to share His love. So, He did. He created the world and people with whom He could have a relationship. Everything was perfect—the world was perfect, the people were perfect, and the relationship with God was perfect.

READ GENESIS 1:1-2:3

In the beginning, God created everything. He created the light and the darkness. He created the waters and everything that swims in them. He created plants and vegetation of all kind. God then looked at all he had created and said that it was good. Then, he created people and said that what he made was very good.

God is perfect, and He created a perfect world.

TALK ABOUT IT - TOGETHER

Discuss God's perfect creation and what aspects of nature help you connect to God. Use the following questions to jumpstart your discussion. There are no wrong answers. They are designed to help create conversation.

- 1** Think of what God made on the first day, and try to remember a time you experienced this part of God's creation. (Example: God created light. Can you remember a beautiful sunrise?) Repeat this for the different days of creation.
- 2** When we say, "God is perfect," what does that mean to you?
- 3** What things did God create that remind you He is perfect?
- 4** Do you think you could ever be perfect? Do you think you could be perfect for an entire day?

MAKE IT - TOGETHER

The Perfect Circle

Supplies: Paper, pencils, and blindfolds

In this activity, each family member must try to draw a perfect circle while blindfolded. After everyone has secured their blindfolds, begin the activity. Once everyone has drawn their circle, take your blindfolds off and compare circles. See which circle is the best.

Just as it is impossible to draw a perfect circle, people are not perfect, and it's impossible to be perfect. No matter how much you practice or try, your circle will never be perfect. The same is true of us. None of us are perfect—only God is perfect. Everything about Him is perfect. He has never done anything wrong, and He cannot be any more good. God is perfect.

Even though we were made perfect, God did not make us robots. That means we have freedom to make choices. He made people and let them choose whether to do things God's way or their way. We will look at this more in week two.

WRITE ABOUT IT - INDIVIDUALLY

Look up Colossians 1:16-17. Read it several times and then write it down in your own words. Don't just copy the verse.

End this time by sharing what each person wrote down and taking a few minutes to pray together. Thank God for creating the world and everything in it.



WE BROKE IT

(Please read this paragraph before to help lead discussions with your child.)

Adam and Eve were the first people God created. God gave them a single rule, and they broke it, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. With that act, they broke the perfect relationship between God and people. In Romans 3:23, the Bible says that we have all fallen short of God's glory. When we sin and do things our way instead of God's way, it keeps us from having a perfect relationship with Him. God is holy (set apart), and He cannot be in the presence of sin. Because of our sin, we can no longer be in God's presence. What's worse is that we can never do anything good enough to make up for our sins. We can't get to God on our own. This is a huge problem!

CREATE IT

(Please be sure each member of the family participates.)

Supplies: Paper, general art supplies (crayons, markers, stickers, etc.)

Have everyone use the art supplies to create a masterpiece. It can be anything! Use your imagination and make something amazing. Be sure each person shares what their masterpiece is and why it's important to them.

BREAK IT

(Please read this next part out loud.)

Sin is never a fun thing to talk about, but it is necessary. If we do not understand the effects of sin, we will never understand how glorious the gift of Jesus' grace is. Sin is the reason Jesus died for us.

Pass your masterpiece to the person next to you. On the count of three, break the masterpiece! Rip it apart! Do it!

The Bible says that we have sinned—we broke what God created. He made the world and everything in it perfect, and it remained that way until-until we broke it. We didn't just break God's creation, though. We broke our relationship with him. Sin separates us from God.

Take a minute to discuss how you felt when your masterpiece was destroyed. When you've finished talking about it, read Psalm 51:1-10.

READ IT

Take turns reading the scripture together as a family.

READ GENESIS 3:1-12, 20-24

(Please read this next part out loud.)

Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Before Adam and Eve sinned, the world was perfect. When they sinned, they didn't rob a bank. They didn't kill anyone. They didn't build a giant idol to worship. They just ate a piece of fruit. It doesn't seem like such a big deal does it? God doesn't see it that way. All sin separates us from God. All sin is choosing to do something our way over God's way. We might think our sin isn't a big deal, but it is to God. He doesn't want sin to keep us separated from Him. He loves us!

TALK ABOUT IT

Use the following questions to jumpstart your discussion. There are no wrong answers to these questions. They're simply designed to help create conversation.

- 1** Have you ever been punished for breaking a rule? How did it make you feel?
- 2** What do you think it would be like to live in a world with no sin? How might the world be different?
- 3** Even though they knew it was wrong, Adam and Eve ate the fruit in disobedience. Why do you think they did this?
- 4** Why do you lie? Why do you disobey parents and rules?
- 5** Is it hard for you to obey rules? Would life be more enjoyable for you if there were no rules? Why?

WRITE ABOUT IT

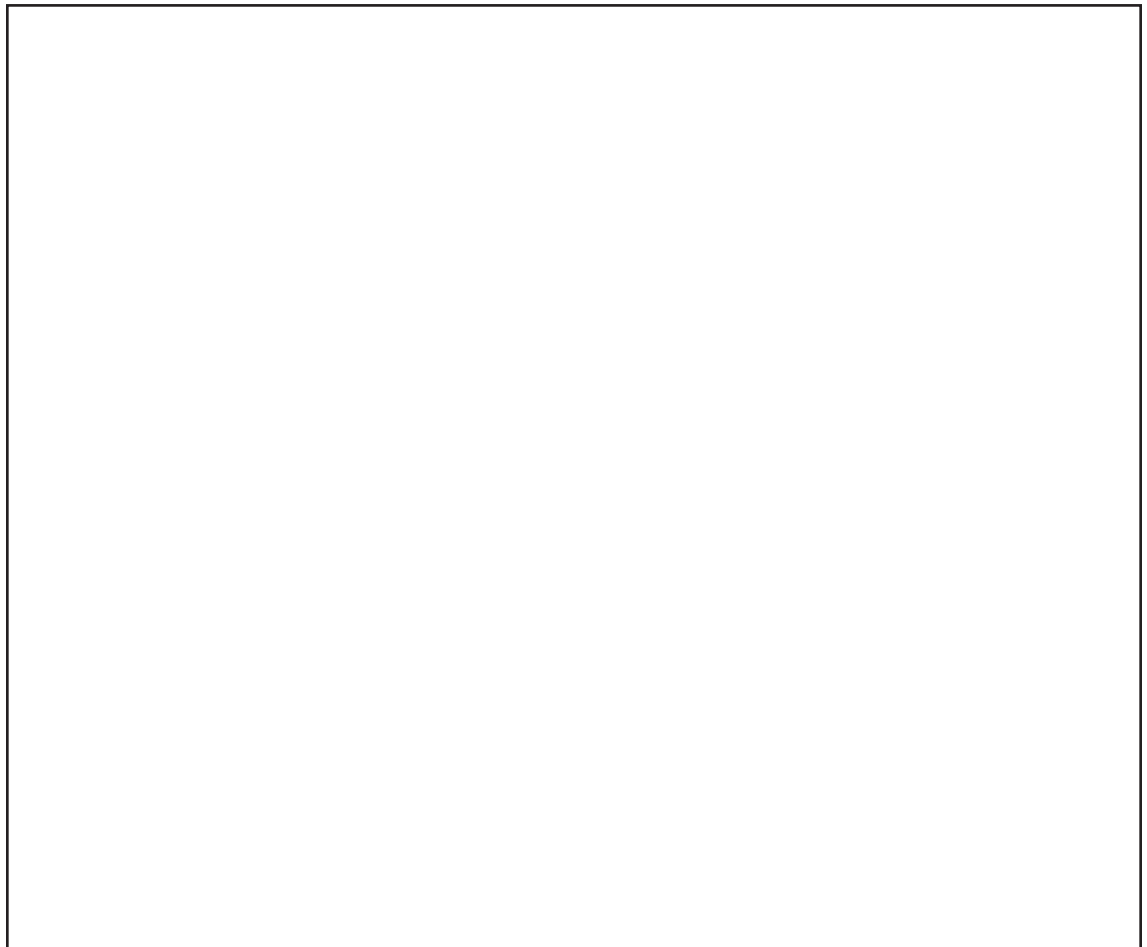
(Please read this next part out loud.)

Sin is about more than just breaking the rules, and the consequence is greater than a timeout or grounding. The Bible tells us in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death. The word wages means payment. So, it's saying you will get paid according to your work. That means our payment for sin is separation from God. Remember, God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin.

We are in need of a Savior. God doesn't want us separated from Him. In fact, He wants to be in a relationship with us forever! He knows we can't save ourselves, and only He can save us. Because God loves us so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin.

(Please help your child in the following activity.)

Read Romans 3:23-24, then rewrite it in your own words.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their own words based on the reading assignment.

JESUS FIXED IT

(Please read this page before to help lead discussions with your child.)

READ GENESIS 3:1-12, 20-24

Jesus fixed the separation between God and us. How did he do it? Jesus willingly went to the cross to die for us. In those days, the cross was a tool used to put criminals to death. Even though Jesus was not a criminal, He was put to death on a cross.

Jesus is God's perfect son. He was fully man. Just like you and I, Jesus needed sleep and food and water. He felt the hot sun and cool breeze. He became angry. He laughed. He cried. He was a man; yet, he was fully God. He was not born sinful, and He never sinned. He was divine. It's important to know who Jesus is before we can understand the importance of what He did.

The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 2:24 that when Jesus died on the cross, He took on Himself the punishment for our sin. He died in our place. But that isn't all!

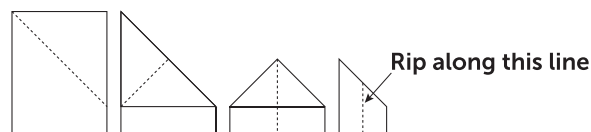
Jesus rose from the dead three days later! He did not remain dead, buried in the punishment of our sin. He is alive, and He offers us eternal life through Him. Jesus' death on the cross is the only way we can experience restoration to a perfect relationship with God. We can be welcomed into God's family for eternity, because Jesus gave up his life for us.

DO IT

(Have your child do this and help them come up with examples.)

Supplies: white printer paper, writing utensil

Take a piece of paper and write down various sins. These can be sins you have personally committed, or they can be generic sins. If your child prefers, allow them to draw things that remind them of sin. Give everyone several minutes to complete his or her list. Wait for everyone to finish before going to the next step. Then, fold your paper like the diagram below.



After you have finished folding the paper, open up the last fold you made and rip along the fold line. Open up the torn paper to see a reminder of what Jesus did on the cross.

READ ABOUT IT - TOGETHER

Take turns as you read the bible passage together. Afterward, read the following portion out loud or talk it over with your child in your own words.

READ GENESIS 22:1-13

Before Jesus died as a sacrifice for all our sins, people needed to sacrifice animals to pay for their sins. Sacrifice is what God required for breaking his law.

In the passage you read, God instructed Abraham not to sacrifice an animal, but instead to sacrifice his only son. Abraham was willing to do so because he loved God and trusted Him. At the very last moment, God stopped Abraham and provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son. God provided the sacrifice.

This story, with its similarities, points us to the story of Jesus. There is, however, a major difference. God didn't stop like Abraham did. God willingly let His only son die on the cross. God sent His Son, Jesus, as the perfect solution to our sin problem. He sent Jesus to rescue us from the punishment we deserved and restore our relationship with God. This means that we have a right standing with God because Jesus paid the price. We didn't have to pay for the gift—it was free! We are now seen as blameless and without sin. Jesus died to redeem us and restore us back to a perfect relationship with God.

TALK ABOUT IT

(Please use the following questions to jumpstart your discussions. There are no wrong answers. These questions are simply designed to help create conversation.)

- 1** What is your most valued possession? What is the one thing you own that is most important to you?
- 2** Would you be willing to give it up for someone?
- 3** Jesus died for us. God sacrificed what he loved most, his Son Jesus, for you. Why do you think he did this?
- 4** Knowing that God gave up Jesus for you, what should you do differently now? What parts of your life should be lived differently now?

GIFT IT - TOGETHER

Take some time this week to come up with a gift to give to your neighbor, the person who lives next to you. You may know who your neighbor is or you may not, but as you spend time making this gift and putting it together, think about the fact that you are showing love to them and not asking for anything in return.

After you give the gift, spend some time in prayer. Thank God for sacrificing His Son. Thank Him for dying for you and your neighbor. Ask Him to help you remember that Jesus died for everyone in the world and not just you or the people you know. Ask Him to help you to love others and share the good news of Jesus.

NOW WHAT

(Please read this paragraph before to help lead discussions with your child.)

We know all this information. Now what? The Bible tells us to respond with repentance. We are to turn from our sin and believe in Jesus. Romans 10:9-10 states it this way; "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

DO IT - TOGETHER

Take a ball and toss, roll or bounce it to each other. Note what each person does when the ball comes to him or her. Did they stand still and allow the ball to hit them? Did they run away from it? Did they reach out and catch it?

People may have responded differently, but they did respond. The action of the ball required a response, and so does the gospel. As we've been going through this booklet, we've talked about what Jesus has done for us. Now that we know what He has done for us, what is our response?

TALK ABOUT IT - TOGETHER

Take time together to discuss the following concepts. Be sure your kids know what it means to admit and repent and to believe in Jesus. Additionally, make sure they understand that after doing so they are part of God's family.

ADMIT AND REPENT (ACTS 3:19)

We have all done things of which we are not proud. We have lied to parents and friends, disobeyed teachers and made fun of other people. The Bible calls those things "sin." Admitting our sins means telling God that we know we have sinned and have separated ourselves from Him. When we confess or admit our sin to God, He forgives us.

When we repent and believe this good news, we are made right with God. To repent, we must first admit and confess that we are sinners. We choose to disobey God and go our own way. Next, we must turn back to God and walk in His way. You can think of this like a U-turn. You are on the sinful road, leading away from God. When you realize this and acknowledge that you are following sin and not God, you make a U-turn toward God. This is repentance.

BELIEVE IN JESUS (ROMANS 10:9)

Believing in Jesus means more than believing He existed. It means believing certain things about Him. To believe in Jesus is to believe that Jesus is God's Son, He lived a sinless life, that He died for your sins and rose from the grave.

When we confess our sin and repent, God is with us. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "God saved you by His grace when you believed, and you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." We don't deserve a right standing before God, but He chooses to give us the free gift of His grace. We couldn't earn it if we tried.

WE ARE FAMILY

When we respond by repenting of our sin and believing in Jesus, we become part of God's family. We are now a Christian, and we are now His child. We belong to God! 1 John 1:12 says, "But to all who believe Him and accept Him, he gave the right to become children of God."(NLT)

When you think about being part of God's family what comes to mind?



WRITE ABOUT IT

(Take time with your child to help them write a letter to Jesus as they prepare to make a decision to follow Him. As they grow older, the letter will be a reminder of what God was doing in their heart as they started a relationship with Him. It will also help them share their faith story with others down the road.)

Grab a pen and some paper and sit down some place quiet with your child. Tell them you are going to write a letter to Jesus together. If they are old enough to write, let them. Otherwise, they can dictate it to you.

- 1** Write the date at the top of the page.
- 2** Begin with "Dear Jesus, You are..." ask them to write out who Jesus is to them.
- 3** Continue with "I love you because..." Encourage them to tell Him what they love about Him.
- 4** Then write, "I have sinned by..."
- 5** Follow with, "I need you because..."
- 6** Finish with "I want to follow You because..." have them tell Jesus why they are making this decision.
- 7** Have them sign their name.
- 8** Place the letter someplace safe so that years later you can pull it out to encourage them in their faith.

GO ALL IN

After you've made a choice to repent and follow Jesus, there's a physical thing we do that shows what's happened inside our hearts. It's called baptism.

READ IT

(Read the following passages together to help understand what baptism is, who should get baptized, and why you should get baptized.)

- 1 Matthew 3:16- Baptism is where a person goes underneath the water and then comes right back up.
- 2 Matthew 10:32- Baptism is a public confession of faith in Jesus to God, the church, and the world.
- 3 Romans 6:3-11 – Baptism is a symbolic representation of a person's union with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- 4 Romans 10:9- Baptism is what you do after you have placed your faith in Jesus.
- 5 Acts 2:38, 8:12, 8:36-38, and 10:44-48- Baptism is for anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ and understands what baptism means.
- 6 Matthew 28:17-19 – Baptism is a command from God.

DO IT

(Please read this next part out loud.)

MAKE JESUS FAMOUS!

What is your favorite movie? Who is your favorite singer? Who is your favorite athlete? How much time do you spend talking about your favorite things with your friends? John 3:30 says "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. That means more of Jesus and less of ourselves. More Jesus in our thoughts and less of us. More Jesus in our actions and less of us. More Jesus in our conversations and less of us. Making Jesus famous is living a life that points to Him. As a Christ-follower, God has given you a mission. This mission is articulated in Acts 1:8. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The mission is to tell people everywhere about Jesus, to make Him famous every place we go. You can see it in the life of Paul and Silas. Read about them in Acts 16:22-33.

Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, yet they did not give up on their mission to make Jesus famous. They knew how much Jesus loved them, and they could not keep such fantastic news to themselves.

TALK ABOUT IT

(Use the following questions to jumpstart your discussion on the mission God has given us. There are no wrong answers. These questions are simply designed to help create conversation.)

- 1** When you think about telling other people about Jesus, how do you feel? Are you intimidated? Excited? Why?
- 2** Why is it important to tell other people about Jesus? What motivated Paul and Silas to tell others?
- 3** Who is one person you can tell about Jesus and invite to church?

GROW YOUR FAITH

(One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to live by example. Do your best to live a life that puts Christ first. Love others and bring your kids along for the ride. Read the following and lovingly guide your child in these practices.)

Followers of Jesus are life-long learners. We study and grow in different ways to learn more about Christ and grow in our relationship with Him. How do we do that?

Here are some examples:

READ THE BIBLE.

The Bible God's love letter to us. If you're struggling to read Scripture, just start small! Create a regular habit of reading just a couple verses a day. Give yourself small steps and have faith that growth will happen.

PRAY TO GOD.

The best way to get to know someone is by spending time with them. He loves hearing from you. Thank Him for all He has done, and talk to Him throughout the day. Tell Him your struggles and ask for help. If you struggle to pray, remember you are just having a conversation. Simply pray a few verses of a psalm. Give yourself small steps and have faith that growth will happen.

GO TO CHURCH.

Worship together. Experience God together. Learn together. Serve together. God doesn't want you to live your life alone. The church is your family!