

Preparing for Baptism





Dear

Before long you will be celebrating your eighth birthday! This is a very special and exciting time in your life because soon you will become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

To become a member of the Church you must follow certain steps. The Fourth Article of Faith tells us exactly what we must do:

“We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

When you are baptized you will be following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ. You will be baptized by someone holding the Priesthood of God, and you will make a special covenant with your Heavenly Father.

Soon after your baptism you will be confirmed. This is when you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will help you choose the right and comfort you throughout your life if you keep the commandments and stay close to your Father in Heaven.

The Primary Presidency created this packet to help you prepare for these steps of Baptism and Confirmation. This packet gives ideas and information that can be used in family discussions, Family Home Evenings, and personal gospel study, to prepare for your Baptism. It also includes pictures to color and activities to do. We hope and pray that it helps you get ready for these very special events in your life.

You are a special and chosen spirit of our Heavenly Father. He loves you, and by being baptized, you show that you love Him too.

We want you to know that we love you and are so glad that you are part of our Primary. We are so proud of your decision to be baptized. We know it is the right thing to do, and it will bring you happiness.

Love, The Primary Presidency

You are a special
child of our
Heavenly Father!



He loves you and wants you
to return to live with
Him again someday!

COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT DAY WILL MY BAPTISM BE HELD?

After you turn eight, you will be baptized the Saturday before the upcoming Fast Sunday. Your baptism is scheduled for _____.

WHAT TIME DO I NEED TO BE AT THE CHURCH?

You and the person baptizing you need to be at the Church by _____. This will give you plenty of time to get dressed in white and take pictures.

WHAT TIME DOES THE MEETING BEGIN?

The baptismal service begins at _____. The rest of your family and friends should be in the Chapel by _____.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?

Bring a towel, a comb, dry underwear, and maybe a baggie for your wet clothes.

WHAT DO I WEAR TO THE BAPTISMAL SERVICE?

You should wear your Sunday clothes to the Church. After you arrive, you will put on the white baptismal clothing.

WHERE DO I GET THE BAPTISMAL CLOTHING?

Clothing for you and the person baptizing you will be given out at the Church near the Library. A member of the Primary Presidency will meet you there to help you find an outfit that fits you properly. Then you will go to the dressing room near the baptismal font, through the bathroom and change. You need to be dressed in the white clothing provided for you before the Baptism begins.

WHO ELSE WILL BE GETTING BAPTIZED?

Because Baptisms are now done on a stake level, there will most likely be other wards and children in the chapel for the meeting. However, only the people from our ward will go to the baptismal font with you. Anyone else in our ward that turned eight the same month might also be getting baptized with you.

WHO MAY COME SEE ME GET BAPTIZED?

Your Mom and Dad, Brothers and Sisters, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, Teachers and Friends can share this special day with you.

CAN PICTURES BE TAKEN?

Pictures may be taken before or after your Baptism, even in your Baptismal clothing, with whomever you wish. However, no pictures are permitted at the Baptismal font or in the chapel.

CAN I HOLD MY NOSE WHEN I GO UNDER THE WATER?

Yes, and the person baptizing you will show you how.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GO COMPLETELY UNDER THE WATER?

Don't worry. You will just get to be immersed a second time, after you have had time to catch your breath.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Write them down here, and the Bishop, Primary President or your Parents will be able to answer them for you:

MYSTERY MESSAGE

(adapted from the *Friend*, June 2003)

To discover an important message from the New Testament, use the code below to fill in the letters or numbers on the lines. For example, A5=Z and D8=3. Have fun decoding!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	V	W	X	Y	Z	1	2	6
B	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	5
C	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	4
D	G	F	E	C	D	B	A	3

“
 $\overline{D7} \overline{B4} \overline{C2} \overline{B3} \overline{D3}$, $\overline{D7} \overline{C7} \overline{D5}$ $\overline{D6} \overline{D3}$

$\overline{D6} \overline{D7} \overline{B6} \overline{B2} \overline{C2} \overline{A5} \overline{D3} \overline{D5}$, $\overline{D7} \overline{C7} \overline{D5}$ $\overline{A2} \overline{D7} \overline{B3} \overline{C1}$

$\overline{D7} \overline{A2} \overline{D7} \overline{A4}$ $\overline{B2} \overline{C1} \overline{A4}$ $\overline{B3} \overline{C2} \overline{C7} \overline{B3}$,

$\overline{D4} \overline{D7} \overline{C5} \overline{C5} \overline{C2} \overline{C7} \overline{D1}$ $\overline{B7} \overline{C7}$ $\overline{B2} \overline{C1} \overline{D3}$ $\overline{C7} \overline{D7} \overline{C6} \overline{D3}$

$\overline{B7} \overline{D2}$ $\overline{B2} \overline{C1} \overline{D3}$ $\overline{C5} \overline{B7} \overline{B4} \overline{D5}$.”

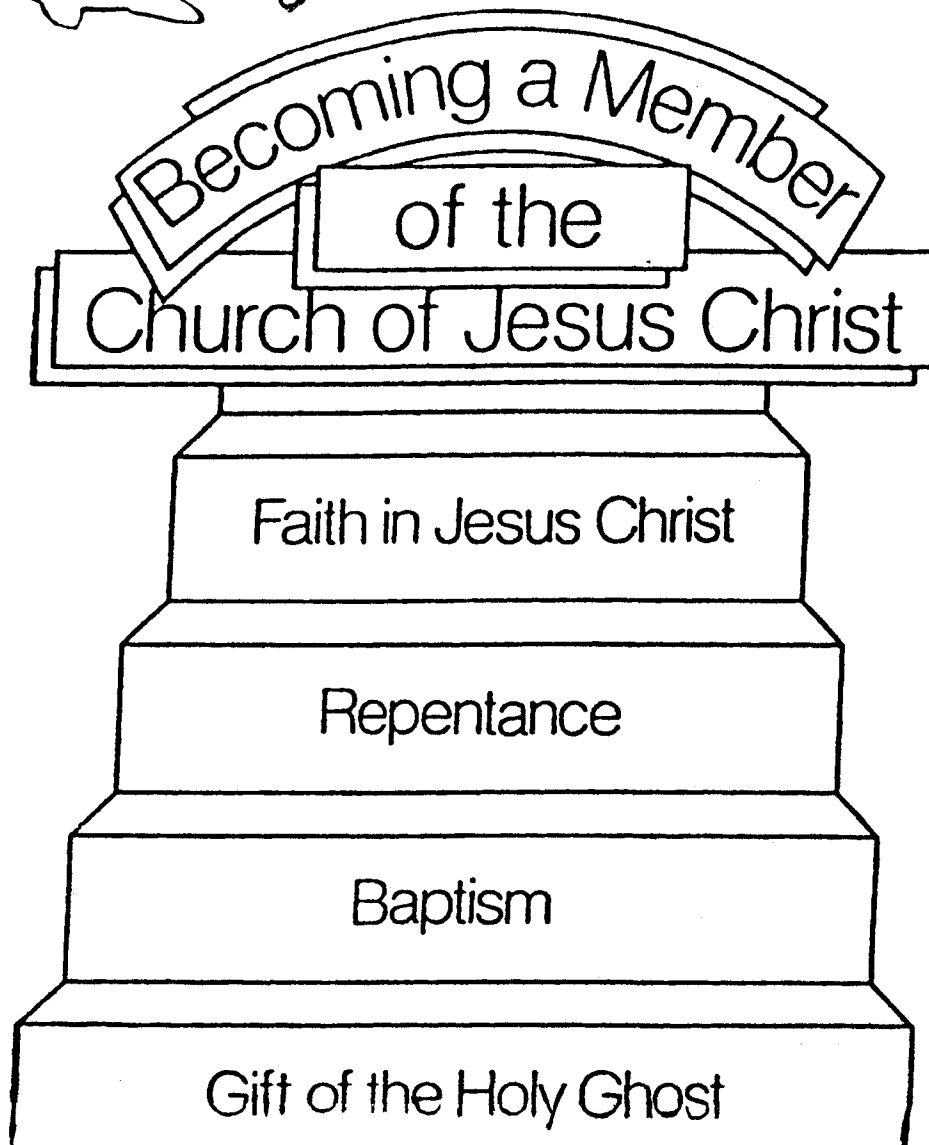
($\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} \overline{\quad}$: $\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad}$)
 $\overline{D7} \overline{D4} \overline{B2} \overline{B3}$ $\overline{A7} \overline{A7}$ $\overline{A6} \overline{A8}$

Look up this scripture in the New Testament and see if you were right. You can also check your answer on the “Answers” page.

What other scriptures about Baptism can you and your family find?

FOURTH ARTICLE OF FAITH

"We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are; first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost."



FOURTH ARTICLE OF FAITH SCRAMBLE

All of the words below make up the Fourth Article of Faith. Cut them out and put them in the correct order. Read it with your parents and have them check to see if you have all the words in the right order. Repeat it several times and try to memorize it.

HANDS	AND	PRINCIPLES	THE
FIRST	OF	JESUS CHRIST	THE
GOSPEL	ARE	IMMERSION	LORD
SECOND	THE	BELIEVE	THIRD
BAPTISM	IN	REMISSION	FOR
FIRST	BY	ORDINANCES	ON
FAITH	OF	REPENTANCE	WE
GIFT	THE	HOLY GHOST	OF
LAYING	THE	FOURTH	SINS
FOR	OF	THAT	THE

When you think you have the Fourth Article of Faith memorized, try taking words away and see if you can still say it. Good luck!

Discuss Faith, Repentance, Baptism, and Confirmation with your parents.

Jesus is our example.

Mark 1: 9-11

“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straight way coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him; And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



You will be baptized by someone who holds the Priesthood, just like Jesus was by John the Baptist.

Jesus was baptized by immersion, just as you will be. Immersion means to be completely covered by water.

Our families teach us
all about the Gospel.



They love us and want us
to choose the right!

BAPTISM FILL-IN-THE BLANK

(adapted from the *Friend*, May 2000)

Fill in each blank with the listed song title from the *Children's Songbook* that fits best.

(1) _____ every year, but this year my birthday is going to be extra special. This year I will turn eight and be baptized a member of (2) _____ of Latter-Day Saints. What are (3) _____ to get ready for my (4) _____? (5) _____ in Sacrament Meeting and Primary. I live (6) _____ by eating good food and by not smoking, drinking, or doing drugs. I know that (7) _____ (8) _____, Jesus Christ, to teach us the gospel. (9) _____ by following his example. I know that (10) _____ with Heavenly Father. (11) _____ I will be making a covenant with Heavenly Father to (12) _____ (13) _____, and do the things He asks me to do. After I'm baptized I will receive the gift of (14) _____. I will need to (15) _____ to the Holy Ghost if I want to hear (16) _____.

- a. "Baptism"
- b. "Because God Loves Me"
- c. "Follow the Prophet"
- d. "He Died That We Might Live Again"
- e. "He Sent His Son"
- f. "I Like My Birthdays"
- g. "I Will Try to Be Reverent"
- h. "I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus"
- i. "Keep the Commandments"
- j. "Listen, Listen"
- k. "The Church of Jesus Christ"
- l. "The Holy Ghost"
- m. "The Still Small Voice"
- n. "The Things I Do"
- o. "The Word of Wisdom"
- p. "When I Am Baptized"

The answers can be found on the "Answers" page. Good luck!

Heavenly Father has told
us that when we turn 8
years old, we are old enough
to be baptized.

8

8

I LIKE MY BIRTHDAYS

I like my birthdays, every one. Each brings
a greater joy to me. But I can't wait until I'm eight,
for then I'll be baptized, you see.

To be baptized as Jesus was, by one who
holds the priesthood true. And thus obey God's
holy laws, is just the thing I want to do.

When hands are laid upon my head, then
I'll receive the Holy Ghost. And if I listen carefully,
I'll have the blessing I need most.

8

8

We are old enough to
choose the right!

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Many times we have questions about the gospel. The answers can be found in the scriptures. Likewise, if you have some questions about your Baptism and Confirmation, those answers can also be found in the scriptures.

Why must I be eight years old to be baptized?

This is when you know the difference between right and wrong, and so you are now accountable for your choices. Read Doctrine and Covenants 68:27.

What does it mean to be baptized by immersion?

Immersion means to go completely under the water. Baptism represents being born again. Read Doctrine and Covenants 20:74 and 76:51.

Who has the authority to baptize me?

High Priests, Elders, and Priests may baptize under the Bishop's direction. Read Doctrine and Covenants 20:46 and 13:1.

Why should I be baptized?

You should be baptized so you can be forgiven of your sins and become a member of Christ's church. Also, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without baptism. Read Doctrine and Covenants 18:22 and John 3:5.

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is a priesthood ordinance that makes you a member of the church and gives you the gift of the Holy Ghost. Read Doctrine and Covenants 39:23 and 76:52.

Who can perform a confirmation?

Any worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holder may confirm you. Read Doctrine and Covenants 53:3.

Who is the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit and a member of the Godhead. The Holy Ghost can comfort, teach and guide you throughout your life. Read 2 Nephi 31:13 and Doctrine and Covenants 121:46.

We also learn about the
Gospel when we go to
Primary.



We learn why it is so
important to be Baptized.

BAPTISM CHECK-LIST

Wear your Sunday clothes to the baptismal service. Before you are baptized, you will change into white baptismal clothing. Things to bring with you:

- Change of underwear
- Towel
- Comb or Brush
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Camera
- Remind the person baptizing you to bring the same things and his own white clothing



BAPTISMAL PRAYER

(Doctrine and Covenants 20: 73)

In the Doctrine and Covenants we read how a baptism should be performed and what should be said during the baptismal prayer. After calling the person by name: *"Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."*

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

When you are baptized you will become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Only through Baptism can you become a member of Christ's church. Baptism also means that your sins are forgiven, and you are prepared to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

When you are baptized you make a covenant with Heavenly Father. A covenant is a promise made by both you and Heavenly Father. You promise to do certain things for Him, and He promises to do certain things for you. Here is a list of the promises made:

I PROMISE:

1. To follow Jesus
2. To remember Jesus
3. To keep the commandments

HEAVENLY FATHER PROMISES:

1. To forgive me when I repent
2. To give me the gift of the Holy Ghost
3. To give me Eternal Life

I promise that I will always remember Jesus and His example and do my best to keep the commandments!

(sign your name here)

"I CAN" CROSSWORD

(adapted from the Friend)

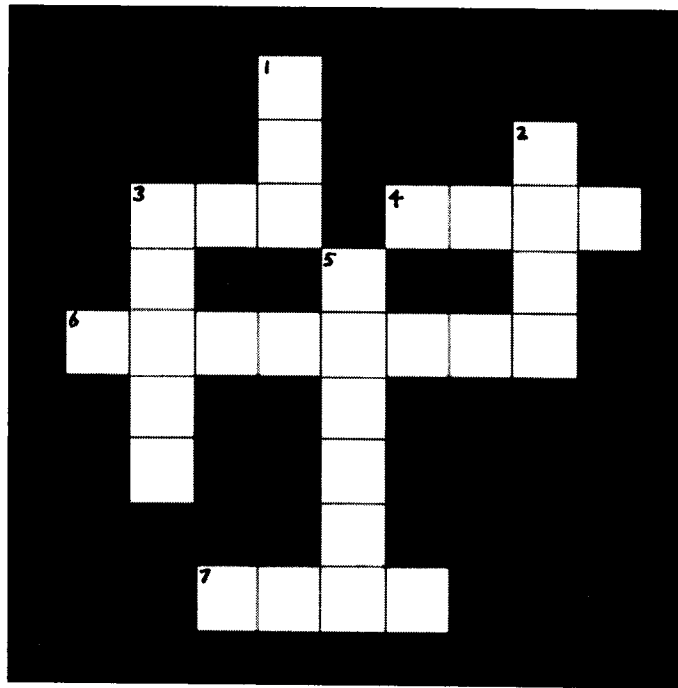
When we are baptized, we promise to always remember Jesus Christ. Fill in the blanks of these sentences to find ways to always remember Him. Then use each word to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

3. I can _____ my prayers morning and night.
4. I can _____ the commandments.
6. I can be _____ when I am eight years old.
7. I can be _____ to others.

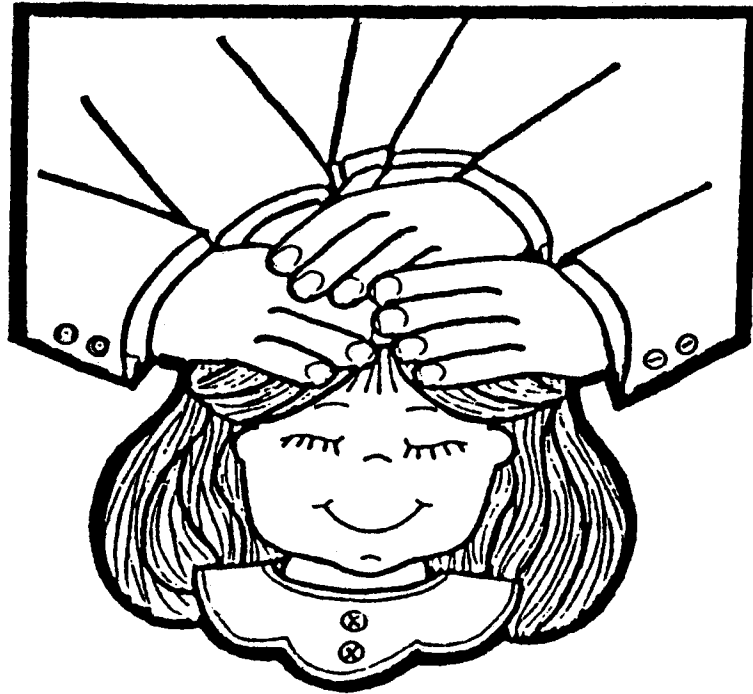
DOWN

1. I can _____ an honest tithing.
2. I can learn about Jesus Christ when I _____ the scriptures.
3. I can _____ the gospel with my friends.
4. I can _____ to the prophet during General Conference.



Answers to this crossword can be found on the "Answers" page. Good luck!

Soon after your Baptism you will be confirmed.



When you are confirmed you will receive two very special blessings:

1. You will be received as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Kingdom of God here on earth. You will share in all of the privileges and blessings of this great Kingdom.
2. You will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and will have the right to Its companionship if you are faithful.

President Benson said this about the Holy Ghost: "The Holy Ghost helps you to choose the right. The Holy Ghost will protect you from evil. He whispers to you in a still, small voice to do right. When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you. He is a wonderful companion. He is always there to help you."

Partaking of the Sacrament
is a renewal of the covenant
you made at Baptism.



Listen very carefully to the Sacrament prayers each week, and remember these promises you make when you take the Sacrament:

1. To take upon yourself the name of Jesus
2. To always remember Jesus. When you have a choice to make, think about Jesus and what He would have you do.
3. To keep His commandments

SACRAMENT SEARCH

(adapted from the *Friend*, Aug. 2000)

Find these words relating to the sacrament by reading forward, backward, down, up, and diagonally. All the words have at least one letter that is not in any other word. After you find all the words, read the remaining letters left to right, top to bottom to find something we should do. Have fun!

Administer
Baptism
Bless
Blood
Body
Bread
Break
Christ
Command
Commandments
Covenant
Deacon
Drink

Eat
Emblems
Jesus
Keep
Name
Obey
Ordain
Partake
Pass
Power
Pray
Prayer
Priesthood

Promise
Remember
Remembrance
Repent
Right hand
Sanctify
Shed
Souls
Spirit
Sunday
Teachers
Water
Witness

R	S	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	E	J
S	R	I	G	H	T	H	A	N	D	S	S	A	P	E
L	E	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	I	M	D	A	S
U	Y	E	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	T	E	M	R	U
O	A	T	E	M	B	E	B	B	R	P	C	I	T	S
S	R	A	J	C	T	E	R	L	S	A	H	N	A	T
D	P	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	E	B	R	I	K	N
U	A	S	D	O	A	A	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	E
S	E	E	C	K	N	I	R	D	U	N	S	T	S	P
U	R	A	R	C	E	I	Y	B	I	K	T	E	P	E
N	E	N	T	B	V	G	N	A	M	E	T	R	I	R
D	H	I	B	L	O	O	D	E	R	E	S	A	R	E
A	F	C	R	E	C	R	A	E	M	P	M	E	I	W
Y	E	B	O	S	O	S	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	O
P	R	I	E	S	T	H	O	O	D	S	N	T	R	P

What should we do? The answer is found on the "Answers" page. Good luck!

The scriptures teach us that we will have Eternal Life if we endure to the end.

When you are baptized you agree to become a follower of Jesus Christ for the rest of your life. Here are some of the things you can do to follow Him and endure to the end:

Attend your church meetings

Follow your church leaders

Live the Word of Wisdom

Fast on Fast Sundays

Pay tithing

Pray morning and night

Be kind to others

Honor your parents

Forgive others

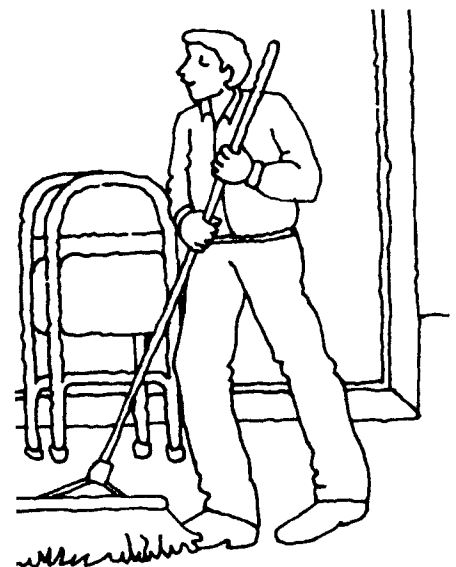
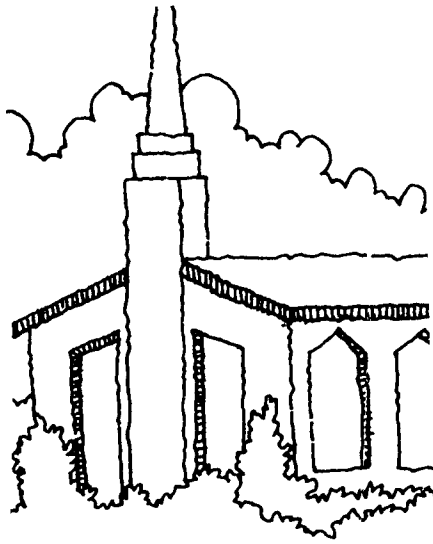
Serve others

Tell the truth

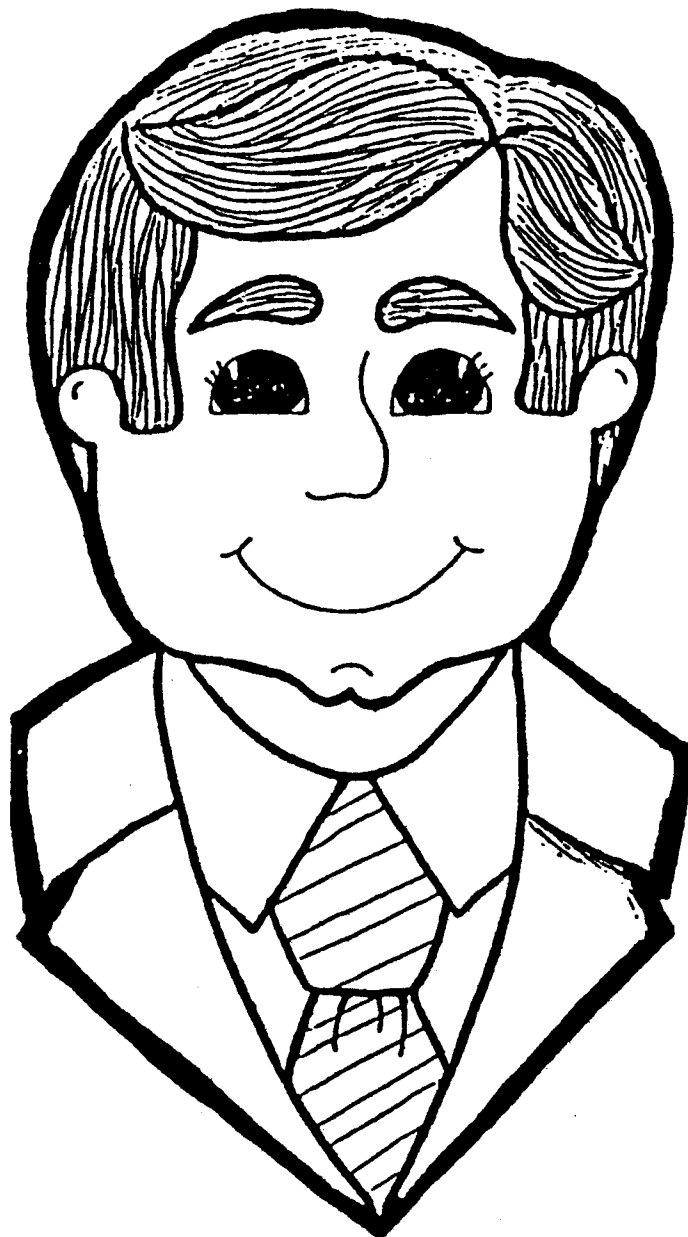
Keep the Sabbath Day holy

Be reverent at church

Be a good example



You will have a special
visit with the Bishop.



INTERVIEW with the BISHOP

In order to be baptized you need to have an interview with the Bishop. This is a very special time when you can talk with the Bishop. During the visit, he will ask you several questions about Baptism to make sure you are ready and that you understand this important ordinance. Here are some of the questions he might ask:

Who is going to baptize you?

What power and authority must he have in order to baptize you?

Why does Heavenly Father want you to be baptized?

Why do you want to become a member of our Church?

Why are we baptized when we are eight years old?

What is Faith?

What is Repentance?

What is a Covenant?

What promises do you make to our Heavenly Father at Baptism?

What promises does our Heavenly Father make to you at Baptism?

What gift are we given when we are confirmed?

How does the Holy Ghost help us?

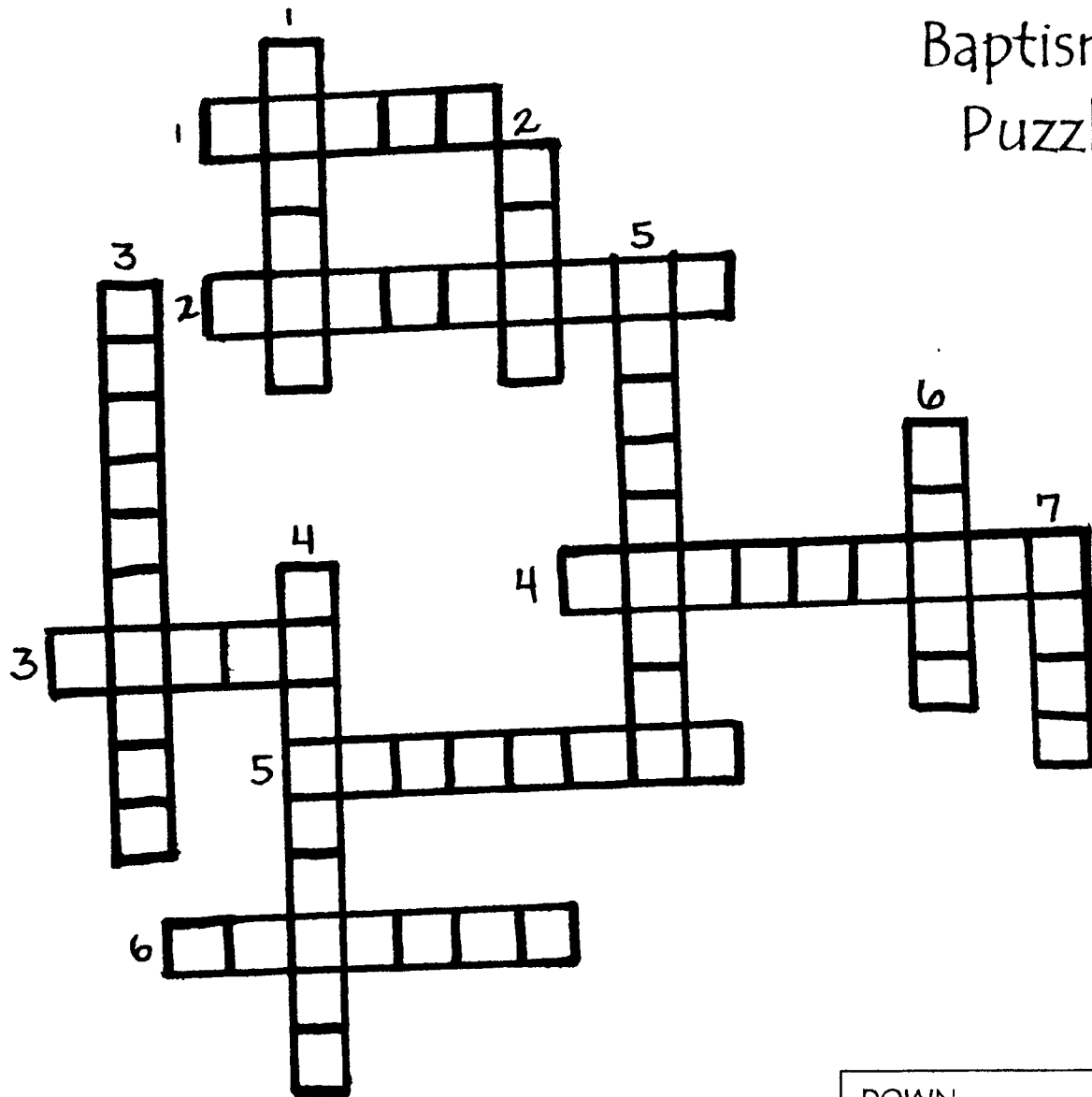
What does it mean to endure to the end?

At the interview, the Bishop will also need to know your full name, address, date and place of birth, your father's and mother's full names, and the name of the person who will baptize you. He needs this information to fill out a certificate of baptism and confirmation which you will receive after the ordinances are performed.

Your parents are invited to join you during the interview. Please bring this packet with you as well. The Bishop wants to see all that you have learned.

This is a very special visit. And, if you have any questions, the Bishop will be happy to answer them for you. He loves you and cares about you and is very happy that you want to be baptized.

Baptism Puzzle



ACROSS

1. How old must you be to be baptized?
2. When we are confirmed we receive the gift of the _____.
3. We must be dressed in _____ to be baptized.
4. Baptism by _____ is the only way.
5. What fractional amount of your income should be tithed?
6. Babies are _____ but are not baptized.

DOWN

1. The Word of _____ tells us to abstain from using liquor and tobacco.
2. Who baptized Jesus?
3. Only those who have the proper _____ authority can baptize.
4. Before being baptized we must get a _____ from the Bishop.
5. We are commanded to attend _____ meeting.
6. It is important that we have _____ in Jesus Christ.
7. How many other Churches have the authority to baptize?

ANSWERS!

Mystery Message:

"Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

Fourth Article of Faith Scramble:

"We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are; first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Baptism Fill-in-the-Blank:

1. (f) 2. (k) 3. (n) 4. (a) 5. (g) 6. (o) 7. (b) 8. (e) 9. (h) 10. (d)
11. (p) 12. (i/c) 13. (c/i) 14. (l) 15. (j) 16. (m)

"I Can" Crossword:

ACROSS: 3. say 4. keep 6. baptized 7. kind

DOWN: 1. pay 2. read 3. share 5. listen

Sacrament Search:

Remember Jesus during the Sacrament.

Baptism Puzzle:

ACROSS: 1. eight 2. Holy Ghost 3. white 4. immersion
5. one-tenth 6. blessed

DOWN: 1. wisdom 2. John 3. Priesthood 4. recommend
5. Sacrament 6. Faith 7. none

PARENT TEACHING RESOURCES

Here are some resources that can help you teach your child about Baptism and Confirmation and the covenants and blessings associated with these ordinances. All of the sources include a fun visual or activity as well as important doctrine. Remember the Friend magazine can be accessed by logging on to the church's website *lds.org*

Karen Ashton, "Sharing Time: Remembering Jesus," Friend, May 1996, 44

This lesson talks about the sacrament and the promises we make to Heavenly Father and the promises He makes to us. It includes a puzzle that reminds you of these promises.

Sydney S. Reynolds, "Sharing Time: I Can Keep My Covenant," Friend, Aug. 1999, 45

This sharing time teaches us about the different times we make covenants, and it includes instructions and materials for a "movie" of these times in our life.

"Plain Words About Baptism: Why Is It Important for Me to Be Baptized?" Friend, Jan. 2000, 39

This talk includes pictures to color that help retell the story "The Plain Words About Baptism."

Ann Jamison, "Sharing Time: On the Right Path," Friend, Jan. 2000, 44

This lesson teaches us about our journey back to our Heavenly Father and the "map" and "road signs" that He has provided on our way back to the Celestial Kingdom. There are several scriptures to look up that help you complete the different "road signs" (commandments). The "road signs" are included.

"Preparing for Baptism." Family Home Evening Resource Book, 120

"Baptism and the Name of Christ." Family Home Evening Resource Book, 52