

Ready: A New Life, A New Future!



My son has just put his rugby shirt in the wash. It almost walked out of his PE bag! It's supposed to be blue, but it's pretty covered in brown mud! All the mud has changed his shirt – it's crusty, smelly, and dirty! And his shoes, well, I think he brought the rugby pitch home with him!!

Sin is a bit like the mud on my son's rugby shirt. It makes us dirty and sticks to us, changing who we are and what we do. God can't look at sin because He is holy. There is no sin in God.

When we asked Jesus to be in charge of our lives, He washed us clean. Our hearts are now pure with no sin.

Can you find **Psalm 51: 7** in your Bible?

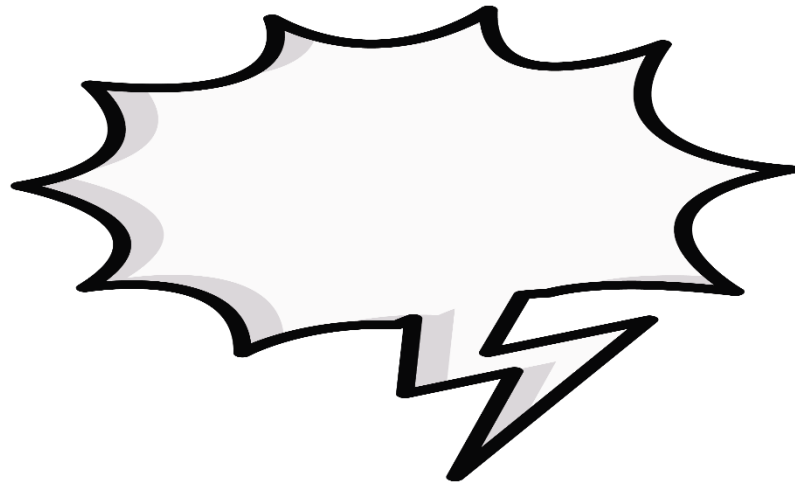


What does it say you look like when you have been washed by Jesus?

Can you find **Acts 2: 38**?



Use your Bible to write down the words Jesus spoke in this verse:



Baptism is the first thing Paul teaches us to do after we have repented, and asked Jesus to be king of our lives. Baptism in water is part of that washing. **It is an outside sign of what God has done to our hearts.**



To clean the t-shirt properly I need to soak it in some water. I can't just rub off the dirt with a sponge. It needs to go right under the water, so every part gets wet and washed thoroughly. Baptism in water is like that. We need to be fully covered in water.

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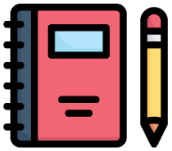


Baptism means “to immerse, submerge”

The word comes from the Greek language where a cloth was baptised in dye to change its colour completely. We need to give up every part of our lives to Jesus and ask Him to wash away every sin. Once we have told someone we believe in Jesus and have given our lives to Him, then we can be baptised in water.

A baptism is showing people on the outside, what God has done for you on the inside; that you are washed clean and forgiven by God.

- It's another important part of becoming a Christian, a follower of Jesus.
- It is a powerful time of finally getting rid of all our sin and becoming who God wants us to be.
- It buries the sin that is already dead.



There are four stories of people who were baptised in the Bible. Choose one of these people to look at now. Write down who got baptised in the story in the box.

Acts 8: 34-39	Acts 9: 17
Acts 10:47-48	Acts 16: 29-34



Now look up this one in **Matthew 3: 13**
Who got baptised in this story?



Have a chat to your grown up about why and when they got baptised, if they have already

Jesus was willing to be baptised to show us how to live. This means that everything He did we can and should do. Jesus was amazing and did many miracles and so can we! We just need to look closely at all the things He did and do the same.

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Let's have a think about what happens when someone gets baptised.

1. Where?

When you are baptised, it is important that your whole body is covered in water, so you might be baptised in:

- a bath,
- a swimming pool,
- a baptistry at your church
- or even a river or the sea!



God doesn't mind where you do it as long as your body goes under the water and people watch it happen.

2. Who?

Any other Christian can baptise you so you can be baptised by your parents, the person who led you to Jesus, or a church leader – anyone who believes in Jesus.



3. What?

People may sing worship songs to God or it may happen at the end or as part of a church meeting. You will usually be asked if you want to tell the people watching why you gave your life to Jesus and what He means to you now.

You don't need to wear special clothes, but you will need towel, dry clothes and might like to wear swimming clothes under your normal clothes!



4. How?

The two people you have chosen will stand either side of you. They will hold you. You will go under the water, but you will go straight down and come straight up – you don't need to be able to swim because people will be holding you safe.



After you have come up out of the water, people will probably put their hands on you and pray for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit to help you on your journey with Jesus.

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Talk to your parents or a leader in the church as soon as you can if you have decided to follow Jesus and need to be baptised. They will arrange with your family for a good time for that to happen.

Let's pray now for God to show you about what baptism means for you:



Thank you, Jesus, that you died for me and wash me white as snow. Thank you for taking all my sins away. I want to follow you all my days and ask you to show me today more about what baptism is for me. Thank you that you have an exciting future ahead of me. Teach me to trust you and to give every day to you and do what you would do. Thank you for loving me. Amen



Now ask Him this question:

- Jesus what do you want to show me about baptism and what it means for me today?
- Then sit and listen for about 30 seconds. What did He tell you?