



## WHY [CHURCH PRACTICES]?

It is important for children to understand each of the practices we engage in regularly as a church. Those things include (but are not limited to) reading the Bible, taking communion, baptism, and singing.

### **Q: WHY DO WE READ THE BIBLE?**

The Bible is the true story of the world. The Bible is authoritative, which means that everything it says is true. It is the place where we learn what is true about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and what is true about humans and the world. Our church mission is to make Jesus famous, and to do that, we must learn who Jesus is and how to make him famous in the Bible. (2 Tim. 3:14-16, Col. 1:15-20)

### **Q: WHY DO WE PRAY?**

Prayer is telling God what is on our hearts and minds. When we pray, we praise God, we ask Him for things, we confess our sin to Him, or we thank Him for specific things He has provided to us. When we pray, we are reminding ourselves and others of God's faithfulness to us and showing Him that we rely completely on Him and His grace. (Matt 6:5-14, Eph. 6:17-20, Rom. 8:26)

### **Q: WHAT IS COMMUNION?**

Communion is when God's people receive bread and a tiny drink. When they eat the bread it reminds them that Jesus's body was broken for his people when he died on the cross. When they take a drink they are reminded that Jesus's blood was shed for his people when he died on the cross. God's people are saved because Jesus died on the cross for their sins.

### **Q: WHY DO WE TAKE COMMUNION?**

God's people take communion to be reminded of Jesus' sacrifice for them and to strengthen their commitment to Jesus and his people.

### **Q: WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE?**

Not everyone who goes to church or prays is one of God's people. Even if our parents or family members have put their faith in Jesus, that doesn't mean that we are one of God's people. To become a part of God's family, we have to place our faith in Jesus alone for our righteousness and forgiveness of sins. You should ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what it means to place your faith in Jesus alone. When the Holy Spirit helps you understand this, you will know. (Gal. 3:7)

### **Q: WHY CAN'T I TAKE COMMUNION?** *[if asked by a child who has not yet accepted Christ]*

Jesus gave communion to those who are his people, and his people are those who trust him alone for their salvation.

### **Q: AM I ONE OF GOD'S PEOPLE?**

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**Q: WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

Baptism is washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (the triune God). People only get baptized after they place their faith in Jesus and repent of their sins. Baptism with water isn't actually washing away sin - it doesn't rescue anyone from sin - but Jesus commands us to be baptized to show others we have chosen to put our faith in him (Matt. 28:19).

**Q: WHY DO PEOPLE GET BAPTIZED?**

Baptism is the way we visibly show others we are placing our faith in Jesus alone for our righteousness and forgiveness of sins. People get baptized because it shows and seals their adoption into God's family through Jesus, their cleansing from sin, and their commitment to belong to the Lord and to His church.

**Q: I/My [fill in relative] got baptized as a baby.\***

A: Different churches do baptism differently, so this would be a great thing for you and your parents to ask one of our pastors about together.