LIFERKIDS BAPTISM

A CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR KIDS AND PARENTS



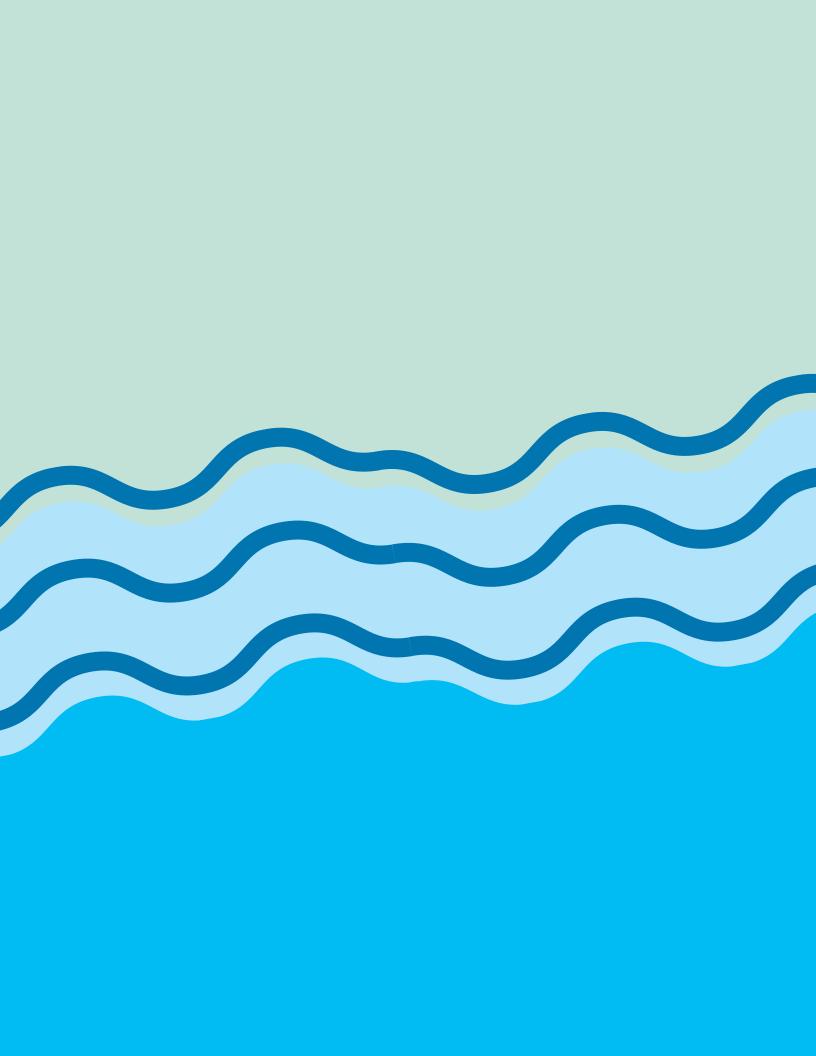


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A NOTE TO PARENTS

It's a big moment when kids start to ask questions about baptism! As parents, you not only get a front-row seat to see your kids grow in their relationship with Jesus, but you also have a God-given role to play in helping them build a biblical foundation in their lives.

This booklet is designed to help you disciple your children through the decision of baptism. It contains explanations of essential Biblical truths, questions for you and your child, and Bible verses to help explain baptism and its importance. It equips you to be the intentional leader in your child's life to guide them through this decision.

As you work through the booklet together, you'll discover if your child understands the reason for baptism and the meaning of their decision to follow Jesus as King.

Choosing to follow Jesus and be baptized is an incredibly personal decision, and there's no time limit on the growing and learning process! The important thing to remember is you are your child's greatest source of support and guidance. Patience is key, both with your child and yourself. They might ask questions you don't have the answers to. When in doubt, always turn to prayer and the Bible, and contact one of our pastors if you need help.

*See **Appendix A** for RLMT Doctrinal Statements on Salvation, Man, Sin, Baptism, and the Church.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Parents, here are a few things to keep in mind as you work through this booklet:



Schedule it!

Set a time each day for you and your child to go through the booklet together. (e.g, at bedtime, in the morning, right after dinner, etc.) Being intentional and relational with your time will help you stick to it and eliminate distractions. Guard your time, but make sure to have fun!

2

Lead it!

This booklet provides an opportunity for you to guide your child and help them learn more about what baptism and following Jesus truly mean. Don't be afraid to lead your child into the readings and activities, but make sure they're understanding and engaging with the content in their own way.

3

Be prepared!

Read through each section on your own first. Grab all the supplies you might need before you sit down with your child. (Pencil or pen, Bible, and extra paper if needed.)

4 Take your time!

Enjoy the process of reading verses and answering questions with your child. Use this as a way to make talking about God and the Bible a regular part of your family rhythm.

Keep it consistent!

There are four major sections in this book. Some focus more on content and reading, while others are more activity-based. We suggest working through one section at a time, or, if you need shorter sessions, half a section at a time. Don't get overwhelmed by trying to read it all in one sitting — just take it step-by-step.

Pray together!

6

Ask God to help you have fun learning together and to create great memories along the way.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

THE ABCs

PART 1: BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

PARENTS: Has your child never given their life to Christ, or maybe they don't understand what that decision means? You can use the ABCs below to help you work through any uncertainty or confusion they might have. These are three knowledge-based actions that can help kids understand what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.

A - Admit you need Jesus.

The Kingdom of God has come through Jesus so we can have a relationship with God. We all need Jesus, and we all need His sacrifice to save us from our sins. Admitting we need Jesus can be hard because we think we can do things on our own, but without God, we would never be able to overcome the problem of our sin! We must recognize Jesus is King, God's one and only son. We must admit we need Jesus to enter God's Kingdom.

Look up and read Romans 3:23

B - Believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Jesus lived a perfect life! He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and he rose from the dead declaring power over sin. He did this so we could spend eternity with Him.

Look up and read John 14:5-6

C - Choose to follow Jesus.

When you choose to follow Jesus, you are asking Him to forgive your sins and be the leader of your life. You are making a decision to turn away from a sinful and toward a righteous life in Jesus. When you choose to follow Jesus, you become a disciple of Jesus.

A disciple is someone who <u>follows</u> Jesus, is <u>changed</u> by Jesus, and is on <u>mission</u> with Jesus.

Look up and read Matthew 4:19 (definition of a disciple)

Now, let's take a look at three other foundational truths of the gospel in a little more depth - believe, repent, and follow.

^{*}See **Appendix B** for RLMT's Definitions on Faith, Gospel, and a Disciple.

BELIEVE HAVE FAITH THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN.

PART 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God. When we have faith in Jesus, that means we believe He is who He says He is: the Son of God who died to forgive our sins and was raised from the dead three days later declaring power over sin!

Paul explains the importance of faith in **Ephesians 2:8-9**:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Jesus' death on the cross is the solution to sin, — in order to be saved and follow Jesus, we have to believe He died for us and forgave our sins. When you express your belief in God, then you know He is working in your life.

For more about belief, check out John 3:16 and Acts 4:11-12.

Discuss these questions together:

- 1. What are some things you believe in, even though you can't see them?
- 2. Why did Jesus die?
- 3. Do you believe Jesus is God's Son?

REPENT TURN FROM SIN AND TO

JESUS FOR FORGIVENESS.

PART 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Sometimes it's hard to understand what we need to be forgiven for. So, before making the decision to follow Jesus, we should understand what sin is and why we need God's forgiveness.

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God, and the Bible says we've all sinned. In **Genesis 3**, Adam and Eve were the first ones to sin, disobeying God by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. Everyone who has ever lived (except Jesus) has sinned and needs forgiveness from God. Jesus began his ministry on earth by saying this in **Matthew 4:17**:

"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."

Sin requires forgiveness, which has been freely offered to us through the grace of God! Repentance is a choice to turn away from our sin and turn toward God. For more about forgiveness, check out Colossians 1:13-14 and 1 John 1:9.

Discuss these questions together:

- 1. Has everyone sinned? Even you? Even really nice people?
- 2. What did Jesus do to forgive our sins?
- 3. Will God forgive us if we trust Jesus to save us? Why?

FOLLOW JESUS.

PART 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Salvation and baptism are two different things. Salvation is the decision to enter God's Kingdom by **believing** in Jesus, **repenting** of our sins, and **following** Jesus. Baptism is a way to obey Jesus and show people you've made that decision. Salvation happens the moment you decide to believe Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, and follow Jesus as King (boss) of your life. From that moment on, you are a Christian!

A Christian is a follower of Jesus. Matthew 4:19 shows us what it looks like to be a follower (disciple) of Jesus:

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

A disciple of Jesus is someone who **follows** Jesus, is **changed** by Jesus, and is on **mission** with Jesus.

Choosing to follow Jesus means living a life that follows His example in the Bible. As Christians, Jesus begins to change us to be more like Him, and we should also remember He's perfect and we're not! Even after you become a Christian, you're going to make mistakes. The important thing is that you continue to follow Him and His Word (the Bible), even when you mess up. Placing our faith in Jesus isn't an event — it's a practice. Salvation is a decision we make one time, but following Jesus is a choice we make every day!

For more on salvation, check out **Galatians 2:20**, **Ephesians 4:32-5:2**, and **1 John 2:3-4**.

Discuss these questions together:

- 1. What does it mean to be saved?
- 2. Was Jesus perfect?
- 3. Why is it important to live how Jesus lived?

UNDER THE SURFACE



Before we dive into baptism, let's see what you already know about it. Don't worry, it's not an actual test! This is just a little quiz to help you get a better idea of what baptism is.

Directions: Are the statements below true or false? Read each sentence, then circle your answer. For the answer key, check out the next page!

- 1. True or False: Baptism is something we do to obey Jesus after we are saved.
- 2. True or False: Baptism involves getting dunked in water.
- 3. True or False: Jesus was baptized in the Bible.
- 4. True or False: You become saved when you get baptized.
- 5. True or False: Baptism is only mentioned a couple of times in the Bible.

BAPTISM TRIVIA ANSWER KEY

- 1. **True!** Baptism is a step of obedience after a person is saved.
- 2. <u>True!</u> Baptism literally means "to be immersed" and we honor our role in obedience to Christ through the physical act of baptism in water by immersion. Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- 3. <u>True!</u> Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-22 all talk about Jesus being baptized by His cousin, John the Baptist.
- 4. **False!** You are saved when you **believe** Jesus was God's Son who died and rose to forgive your sins, **repent** of your sin, and **choose** to follow Jesus.
- 5. **False!** Baptism is actually mentioned in more than 70 verses in the New Testament!

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

PART 2: UNDER THE SURFACE

Baptism is what we do to obey Jesus and show everybody we've decided to follow Jesus. When we're baptized, we are obeying a big part of the mission Jesus gave His disciples.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

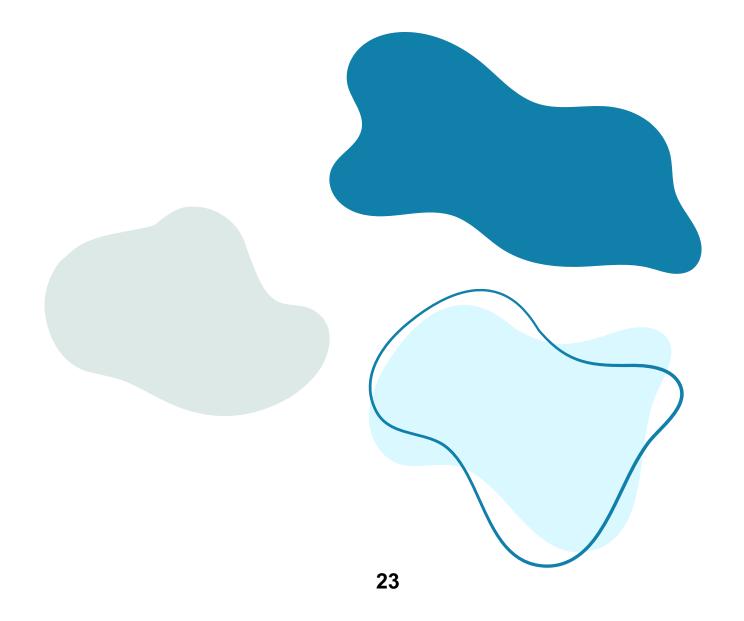
Baptism is like painting a picture for everyone to see. It's a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and a picture of our decision to believe that and follow Him. <u>Baptism is a deep, spiritual decision that is connected to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.</u> **Romans 6:4** explains it this way:

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

^{*}See **Appendix A** for some of RLMT's Doctrinal Statements on this topic & **Appendix B** for RLMT's important Definitions.

When we're standing in the water, it's a picture of Jesus dying on the cross for us. When we go under the water, it's a picture of Jesus being sealed in the tomb after He died. And when we come up out of the water, it's a picture of Jesus being raised from the dead on the third day.

When we're baptized, it identifies us with Christ — it shows everyone we're on God's team. Think about it this way: When you wear a baseball cap, a school t-shirt, or your favorite sports team gear, you're telling people you're loyal to that team or school. So, when you're baptized, you're showing everyone you're loyal to Jesus!





BAPTISM WORD SEARCH!

Directions: Can you find all the words from the list below?

Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Q G В F Ν В C 0 M W Т S В D Ε D R C W R Α R Н Т M M S G Н C C В Н U U Т Υ J Ε L Ν J Ε Ε T C Н M J R X S Ε S Ε Ζ В 0 Н R F P Ν T R R U Ε M Ε В S F Α Т Ε Ζ S S X K I D Q S В Α C S 0 T В X X Y Ε S U S Т K Т T G Ζ S В Α Т S M D 0 C D Ε В Q Υ G S N

Admit Baptism Believe Choose Disciple Faith
Forgiveness God Jesus Life Raise Resurrection

PART 3 NEXT STEPS

AM I READY?

PART 3: NEXT STEPS



Directions: Put a check next to each statement you agree with to see if you might be ready to be baptized!

	I believe Jesus is God's Son.
	I know I am a sinner and I need forgiveness.
	believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive my sins.
	I have asked Jesus to forgive my sins.
	I have decided to follow Jesus and live like He says for
1	the rest of my life.

PARENTS: If you're child checked all the boxes, they might be ready for baptism! We encourage you to read through the biblical foundation listed on the next page. Children can check off the verses they've read as they work through them. The goal here isn't to rush into baptism, but to make a decision with understanding.

1	Who Jesus is: Matthew 3:13-17 1 John 5:6-8 Matthew 16:13-20	4	Asking for forgiveness: Romans 6:23 1 John 1:9 Acts 2:38
2	Why we need forgiveness: Romans 3:23 1 John 1:8 Ephesians 2:1-3	5	Following Jesus: 1 Peter 2:21 John 12:26 Mark 8:34-36
3	What Jesus did for us: Romans 5:8 1 Peter 3:18 1 John 2:2		

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M READY?

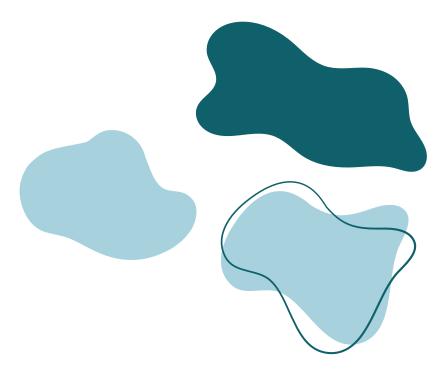
PART 3: NEXT STEPS



If you think you're ready to be baptized, talk to the person going through this guide with you. They'll help you figure out what your next steps should be.

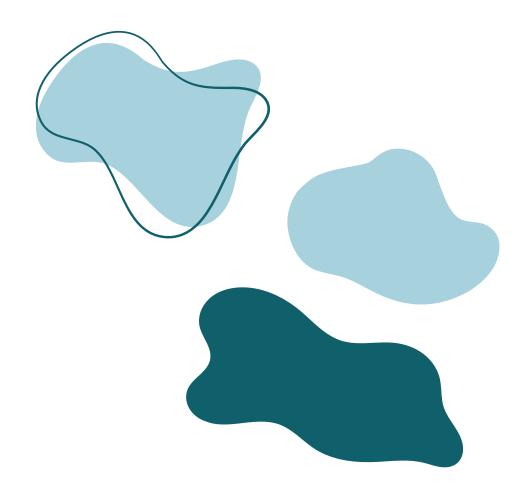
If there's anything you're nervous or worried about, you can also talk to God about it! Here's a prayer you can say to start your conversation:

Lord, thank You for working in my life. I believe You sent Your Son to die for me and forgive my sins. Please guide me and help me continue to learn about You as I follow You everyday. In Jesus' name, Amen.



FOR PARENTS

At the end of this booklet, you'll find a QR code to scan, which will take you to a web page where you can sign your child up for baptism. In the first conversation, your child will meet with our Kids Pastor and be asked a few questions about Jesus and their faith to make sure they're ready to be baptized. Once your child has gone through the interview, we'll make final plans with you to baptize your child!





ACTIVITY: DRAW IT OUT

In the space below, draw three things that remind you of baptism.

They could be things like water, Jesus' resurrection, or even someone in your life who loves Jesus!

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

PART 3: NEXT STEPS



If you're nervous about getting baptized, that's okay! A lot of people usually are. The good thing is, getting baptized is the easy part. You'll step into water, and the person baptizing you will dip you under the water, then pull you right back up. Don't worry, you'll have time to hold your nose! After you come out of the water, that's it — you've been baptized!

Getting baptized is a super exciting decision! You're telling everyone you've chosen to follow Jesus, and that's something to celebrate. Your family and church will be so happy for you, and you'll be able to rely on them to help you keep growing in your relationship with Jesus even after you're baptized.

ACTIVITY: HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

Look at the words below and circle the ones that describe how you feel about baptism. There are also a couple of spots for you to add your own words!

Excited Anxious Happy Worried
Thankful Nervous Ready

MY STORY

PART 3: NEXT STEPS

When we admit we need Jesus, believe in Him, and choose to follow Him, we're writing a story that will forever change our lives. Your story is the process of how your faith in Jesus turned into a relationship with Him, and it's unique to you! Some people have long, complicated stories, while others have pretty simple ones. And once you know your story, you can share it with other people to show them how much Jesus loves you and has changed your life!



NOW THAT YOU KNOW YOU'RE READY TO BE BAPTIZED, WHAT'S YOUR STORY? HOW DID YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS START? ON THE NEXT PAGE, WRITE OUT YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

WHEN DID YOU MAKE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO FOLLOW JESUS?

PART 4 A NEW LIFE

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER BAPTISM?

PART 4: A NEW LIFE

Baptism isn't the end of your journey — it's only the beginning! Following Jesus doesn't just mean acting the way He did and following His commandments. (Although that's pretty important!) It also means you want to have a close relationship with Jesus by talking to Him and reading the Bible.

As Christians, we try to talk to Jesus daily and live the way He wants us to. We adjust our lives to what the Bible says. Here are some things you can start doing to grow your relationship with Him:



Talk to Him!

The Bible is the primary way Jesus speaks to us, but He hears every prayer we pray and He even chooses to speak to us through His Spirit! It's important to pray to Him. Jesus loves to hear about what we're thinking and feeling, whether it's good or bad. He also wants us to ask for help when we or someone we know is struggling with something.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." **Philippians 4:6**

2

Learn more about Him!

The Bible is the greatest tool we have. Reading the Bible not only helps us understand Jesus' story, but also helps us understand OUR story. The more time you spend in God's Word, the more you will act, speak, and think like Jesus. It can be very fun to start reading the Bible in the book of John because John tells us all about the way Jesus lived!

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

3

Spend time with other Christians!

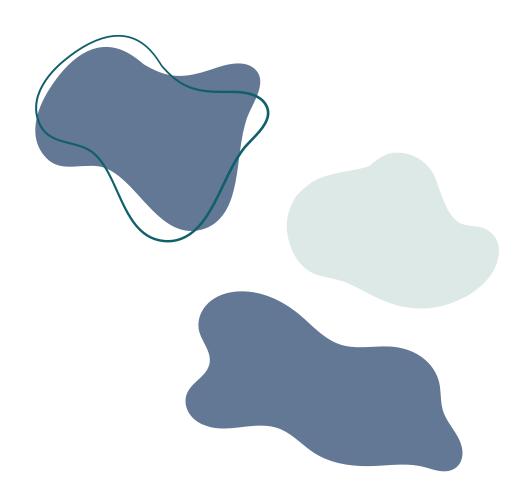
God created us for relationship; we're not meant to do life alone! The people around you influence your attitude, thoughts, and actions, so spending time with other Christians will help you live like Jesus. When God created the world, He made it clear to all people that we need relationship with Him and other people.

"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" **Genesis 2:18**

ONE LAST THING FOR KIDS...

PART 4: A NEW LIFE

This is an exciting time — and you have the rest of your life to learn more about Jesus and live like He did! He has a plan for you and is going to do wonderful things in and through you! As a new follower of Jesus, it's important to remember that you are His disciple, and you are called by God to go make disciples. Go and be a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples!



ONE LAST THING FOR PARENTS...

PART 4: A NEW LIFE

Parents, you might be wondering... "Is my child really ready to be saved or baptized?"

Following Jesus is a life-changing decision, and when your child is ready to commit to it, the changes in their words and actions will be impossible to miss. This happens when your child realizes the true meaning of having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Take some time to read the following questions carefully and answer them honestly. Watching your child go through the process of believing in Christ and wanting to get baptized is amazing, but don't rush it! Based on the discussions you've had with your child and their previous answers to the questions in this booklet, you'll know whether they're ready for this big step or not.

- 1 Does my child understand what sin is?
- Do they understand Jesus came to save them from their sin?
- Do they understand what it means to accept Jesus into their heart and follow Him?
- As a parent, have I prayerfully considered my child's faith? Do I feel like baptism is their next step?
- 5 Is my child making this decision on their own?

If you've answered these questions and believe baptism is the next step for your child, ask them if they're ready for a baptism interview with their pastor. If you're unsure or your child seems to be struggling with specific concepts, go over anything they're having trouble with. This isn't an overnight process. It might take some time for your child to fully grasp the weight of their decision. Let God move and work in their life on His time.

Thank you, parents, for taking the time to work through this booklet with your child. Your support for them is invaluable, and whether they give their life to Jesus in 10 minutes or 10 years, God has used you to bring them closer to Him! It is the parents' job to disciple their children. Our Pastors are here to support you through the process. We are praying for you and here to support you as you model what it looks like to be a disciple who makes disciples to your children.

READY FOR AN INTERVIEW?

Scan the QR code below to sign up for a baptism interview! We can't wait to hear from you and talk with you about God's work in your life.



Appendix A

RLMT Doctrinal Statements

For a list of all our Doctrinal Statements, visit www.reallifetexas.org/our-beliefs

MANKIND

People are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. To put this simply, this attitude we have can be described as our "sin nature". Yet, we are not separated from God because of the existence of sin nature, but rather, because we give into it and choose to sin.

Supportive Scripture: Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3; Psalms 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ and God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ as Lord of their life. This is evidenced by repentance, confession, baptism by immersion, and a life committed to His service.

Supportive Scripture: John 1:12, 14:6; Romans 5:1, 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

BAPTISM

We teach that those who have believed the message of the gospel, repented, and confessed Christ as Lord and Savior will be baptized as an act of obedience in following Jesus. In the book of Acts people were immediately baptized once they accepted Christ. As a church we want to respond with the same sense of urgency in a timely act of obedience following a confession of faith. Baptism literally means "to be immersed" and we honor our role in obedience to Christ through the physical act of baptism in water by immersion. Baptism is a picture of death and resurrection. Because we do not believe a baby, or small child, is lost before the age of accountability (the age where they have the ability to know the truth about God, Jesus, and sin), we do not baptize infants (Matthew 18:1-6).

Supportive Scripture: Matthew 28:18-21, Acts 2:37-38, Acts 8:35-39, Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12

THE CHURCH

The church is the body and bride of Christ and also serves as the household of faith. It is a living temple where God dwells in each of His people. We believe that everyone that has been saved by Christ is a member of the greater Christian church. We believe that the church exists throughout the world, and is witnessed and experienced in local autonomous gatherings of believers.

Supportive Scripture: Ephesians 4:16; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 5:24-32; Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:4-5; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Acts 14:23; Matthew 16:16–18; Acts 2:42–47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:20–23; 4:3–10; Colossians 3:14–15

Appendix B

RLMT Definitions

Vision Statement: We will be a church that develops people to go impact the world for Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).

Mission Statement: We will be a church that cultivates disciples in relational environments (Hebrews 10:25).

The Gospel is this:

- The Kingdom of God has come through Jesus of Nazareth to restore relationship with mankind. He is the Christ, The King, God's one and only Son.
- He died on the cross for our sins, was buried and was resurrected on the third day according to the scriptures.
- In HIS great love and by HIS amazing grace, God our Father saves everyone who REPENTS of their sin, BELIEVES in Him and FOLLOWS Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- When King Jesus returns on the last day for HIS Church all who have been restored and followed him will enter into the eternal Kingdom of God.

Our definition of the word "disciple" comes straight from Matthew 4:19...

He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

A disciple is someone who is **following** Jesus, is being **changed** by Jesus and is committed to the **mission** of Jesus.

