

THE “3 QUESTIONS OF FAITH” STUDY GUIDE:

Baptism is, in part, a public affirmation of your faith. As a public affirmation, we will ask you to respond to 3 basic questions of faith.

Before you affirm these questions to all present, maybe it'd be a good idea for you to look them over, read the passages from the Bible they refer to, and make sure you understand what they mean and can honestly answer them. So we've designed a very simple study for you. Please take a few moments to read through the following.

1) Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?

This first affirmation is one of faith in **who Jesus is**. Some say that He was just a man. Maybe a good teacher. A spiritual guru. Even a great healer. But the Bible makes it clear that He is much more. He is the Son of God, the very expression of God himself to us. And he is “the Christ” (the Messiah) — God’s promised deliverer.

- **He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God**

Then Jesus asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:15-16; also check out John 20:31)

- **He is “Immanuel” -- God with us**

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1:23)

- **He is the fullness of God in human form**

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. (Colossians 2:8; also read Colossians 1:15-20 and John 1:1-18)

2) Have you trusted in Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins?

The second affirmation is one of faith in **what Jesus has done**. All religions of the world attempt to chart a course to reach God through strict codes of conduct, right beliefs, rigorous training.

But the Bible teaches that God charted a course to us! We have a relationship with God only because God forgives us completely and accepts us. And God forgives us because Jesus died on the cross to take on himself all human evil and suffering. Forgiveness comes through Jesus alone.

- **We are forgiven because of Christ’s death, his shed blood**

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. (1Peter 2:24; also look up Colossians 1:13-14 and Ephesians 1:7)

- **Salvation comes by no other means ... there’s nothing we do to “earn” it**

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. (Ephesians 2:8-9; then read John 14:6 and Romans 3:23-24)

- **Baptism is an expression of this forgiveness**

Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

3) Do you commit to live your life in obedience to Him?

The third affirmation is one of **personal commitment** to become a fully devoted follower of Christ. Baptism is not the end of the road but the beginning of a new life, lived in obedience to Christ, empowered by His Spirit.

- **It is normal for Christ’s followers to obey what He taught, to do what he says**

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.” (John 14:23; also read Matthew 28:18-20, especially v.20)

- **Baptism is the beginning of a completely new life**

And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. (Romans 6:4)

After you’ve read these passages, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to pull aside of the pastors at TerraNova or your LIFEgroup Leader and talk about it more with them.