




Children's Ministry

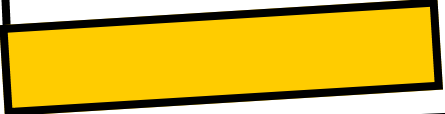
Salvation, Baptism, and Church Membership

Consolidated Baptist Church
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Visit us on the web at:
www.consolidatedbaptist.org



Welcome!

We love and welcome all children into our fellowship. Children are important to us because they are important to God!

Our vision is to be a ministry that transforms every child by sharing the love of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ, so they have a greater desire to know Him and be involved in His Church.

At Consolidated, we believe children should be taught about Jesus Christ and His great love for us. This commitment to teaching children about God has led us to offer classes to help children and their parents answer questions related to salvation, baptism, and church membership.

We believe it is the God-given responsibility of parents to impart a spiritual heritage to their children. "God's plan is for families to lead in the provision of spiritual development for their children. Churches certainly have a viable role in that process, but it is parents who will be held accountable by God for the spiritual growth of their children."

—from *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*
by George Barna

Have you heard?

- The vast majority of those who choose to follow Christ become Christians during childhood—before the age of 14.
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of parents said they've grown more religious since having children, in a recent Parents magazine poll. More than half (57%) said they attend worship more than once a week. And 90% said they regularly talk with their children "about God or a higher power." When parents were asked about the challenges of raising spiritual kids, their top two answers were society's lack of support for religious values (33%) and busy schedules (24%).
- In a recent poll, kids valued God's opinion of them (27%) second only to their parents' opinion of them (37%).

Getting Started

Our role through Children's Ministry is to support families in introducing children to Christ, while allowing parents/guardians to be informed (always) and involved (as often as possible) in that process. We rely heavily on the parent to determine the readiness and comprehension level of the child. Children's Ministry includes all children ages 6 weeks to 5th grade.

Candidates for Baptism:

- A general prayer will be said with any child who expresses an interest in receiving Christ during Children's Worship. The parent will be notified. Children can be presented a plan of salvation message at that time if a parent wishes. The child must then take First Step in order to move forward toward baptism and church membership.
- Any child that comes forward in the main sanctuary will be referred to Children's Ministry.

Letter or Christian Experience:

- Any child up to 5th grade that comes forward to join Consolidated by letter or Christian experience will also be referred to Children's Ministry. The child must then take First Step in order to move forward toward church membership. First Step is the initial class in the Children's Discipleship Series.

FIRST STEP

First Step is a class for children who have questions about becoming a Christian, who have just made a profession of faith, or just become a member of Consolidated by letter or Christian experience.

Any child joining Consolidated by letter, Christian experience, or as a candidate for baptism must attend First Step. At least one parent must attend the class with the child.

First Step is an introductory class that discusses how to receive Christ, baptism, and communion. This class is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. It is offered EVERY THIRD SUNDAY from 9:45 to 11:00 AM in Room 117AC/Youth Praise Worship Room.

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM: If the instructor believes the child is not ready, has questions, is unclear about salvation, or other issues, that will be communicated to the parent attending with the child. Our goal is not to keep children from being baptized, but to ensure that they understand the decision that they are making. Additional one-on-one consultation will be offered so that candidates can be baptized as soon as possible.

Baptism Basics

1. At Consolidated, baptism service is always held on the last Sunday of the month following the 11:30 AM service.
2. Candidates will be called by Friday before baptism service as a reminder.
3. Parents should bring a change of undergarments and a plastic bag to take home wet clothes following the baptism.
4. A parent will need to accompany the child to the baptism sign-in table in the vestibule on Baptism Sunday by 11:15 AM.
5. All candidates will dress for baptism and be seated together in a reserved section behind the ministers on the front row.
6. Children can attend Children's Worship as usual in their baptism clothing. An attendant will pick up all of the children from Children's Worship and escort them to the baptism area at the appointed time.
7. Commemorative photos will be taken and provided to families as a courtesy. Photos will be available for pick up by the following Sunday in the vestibule at the baptism table.

After your child is baptized, please notify the registration staff on the Children's Wing so that your child can be updated in the database. This helps staff to identify that your child can take communion when it is served during Children's Worship.