

Baptism and the Lord's Supper for Children



These are the questions prescribed by our Book of Church Order that we ask for church membership, and for baptism:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

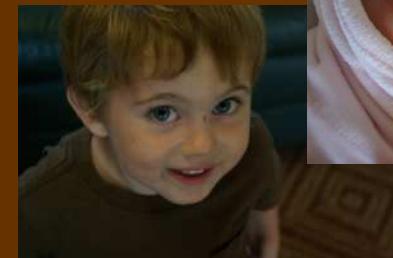
We use a simplified version for children. The same questions are used both for older children who have not been baptized, and for children who have been baptized and are now ready to join the church at the Lord's table.

1. Do you believe you are a sinner and deserve to be punished by God?
2. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
3. Do you trust Jesus to take away your sins?
4. Do you promise to live like a follower of Jesus?
5. Do you promise to support the church to the best of your ability?
6. Do you promise to follow the leaders in the church and your home that God has put in your life?

Zion Church

5511 South 27th Street
Lincoln Nebraska 68512
402-476-2524
office@zionpca.com
www.zionpca.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30, 11:00
Christian Education for all ages: 9:45
Infant and toddler nursery provided.



A well-ordered church is marked by word, sacrament, and discipline. The church must preach the gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully, administer the sacraments of the baptism and the Lord's Supper, and not let scandalous and ungodly behavior among its members pass without correction and discipline.

Preparing Your Child for Baptism and Communion

Baptism is God's declaration that this person belongs to Him in Christ. At Jesus' baptism, God said, "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased." When we are baptized into Christ, God likewise says, "This is Fred. He is Mine. I love him. And I am pleased." Baptism formally brings a person into the church.

The **Lord's Supper** is God's gracious way of sustaining and strengthening his church with the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. At Zion, this communion meal is the culmination of our weekly covenant renewal worship service. We hear God's word spoken, and then respond by coming to the table and receiving God's word in the elements of the supper. Only those who have been baptized and are in good standing with Christ's church partake of the Lord's Supper.

Children and Baptism

At Zion, we baptize the infant children of members because the Bible teaches that God counts such children as His in Christ.

Because many people come to Zion from churches that do not baptize the infant children of believers, we sometimes have family baptisms that include one or both parents and children of several ages. In such cases, we expect the older children to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus. This personal testimony is reflected in their answers to the questions we ask in the form from our Book of Church Order that we use for baptism. At the same time, very young children and infants may be baptized as part of the household without affirming the formal questions of baptism.

If you are a baptized believer, we encourage you and your children to become members of Zion church. (If you have never been baptized, then hear and obey the

call of the gospel: repent and be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.)

If you are a member of Zion and have an unbaptized child:

1. An **infant or very young child**: bring this child for baptism, believing the promises of God in Christ that the gospel is for you and your children.
2. An **older child** who has not been baptized. Arrange a meeting through the church office with a couple of Zion's elders. The elders will interview your child to give him an opportunity to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus. Then a date for your child's baptism can be scheduled.



Children and the Lord's Supper

Although many at Zion are sympathetic with the view that all baptized children should be welcome at the Lord's table, we submit to the rule of the Presbyterian Church in America, which requires that before being admitted to the table, children must be old enough to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus.

A baptized child who is ready to take the Lord's Supper needs an interview with a couple of the church's elders. Make an appointment through the church office so the elders can give your child an opportunity to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus. Then your child can begin to receive communion each Sunday.

Preparing Your Child for an Interview

Before an older child is baptized or admitted to the Lord's Supper, he must have an interview with a couple of Zion's elders. The purpose of this interview is to give the child an opportunity to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus.

In order to prepare a child for this interview, parents can speak often with the child about the main points of the gospel: God's holiness and justice, our sinfulness and guilt, Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and our personal faith.

Help your child understand questions like:

- Who made the world?*
- What is God like?*
- What is sin?*
- How does a holy and perfect God regard sin?*
- What is God's judgment on sinners?*
- Have all sinned? Have you?*
- Is it possible for us to be good enough so God will not punish our sins?*
- What has God done to save us from our sin?*
- What did Jesus do for us?*
- After Jesus died on the cross, did he stay in the grave?*
- What is the difference between people whom God judges for their sins and those he forgives?*
- Do you trust Jesus to be your savior?*
- Will you follow Jesus and learn to obey him?*

Zion has copies of the **Children's Catechism** available in booklet, audio CD, and Windows CD formats. This resource is very useful in helping Children understand the gospel.

Zion also occasionally offers a **Children's Communicants Class**. One of the elders of the church has two or three sessions with children who are preparing for an interview to help them be ready to articulate an age-appropriate understanding of the gospel and personal faith in Jesus.