

the  
**gathering**  
GETTING READY FOR BAPTISM

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church Leader (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

- When did you decide to become a follower of Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
- Have you been baptized before (i.e. as a child or as an infant)? If so, when?
  
  
  
  
  
- How long have you been attending The Gathering?
  
  
  
  
  
- Why do you want to be baptized?
  
  
  
  
  
- Who is someone who has been highly influential on you in your spiritual journey?

**BIBLE STUDY:**

**1. God’s Vision for People**

a. Read Genesis 1:26-27. What is unique about the way that God created people? What are some of the qualities of being created “in the image of God”?

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b. Read Genesis 1:31, 2:8-9, 15-17. What was life like before sin entered the world?

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c. Read Genesis 2:18, 21-25. What were relationships like before sin entered the world?

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**2. The Problem of Sin**

a. Read Genesis 3:1-19, Psalm 51:1-5, Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8. According to these verses, what does the Bible say about who has

sinned, what sin is and its results? Do you believe that these verses apply to you?

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b. Read Romans 7:18-20, Galatians 5:19-21 and Matthew 25:41-45. What do these verses say about the power of the presence of sin in our lives? How do you see the presence of sin in your life?

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c. Read Romans 5:12 & 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10. What is the eternal consequence for not letting Jesus deal with our sin in this life?

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### **3. The Solution of Jesus**

a. Read John 3:16, 1 John 1:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:15. According to these verses, what did God send Jesus into the world to do for us? What do we need to do to experience his grace in our lives?

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b. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Can we deal with the destructiveness and consequences of sin in our lives by just trying to be good people? Is it possible to be "good enough" to save ourselves? What do these verses say about how we can get right with God?

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c. Read Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 2:12-13, Galatians 5:22-23, and Matthew 25:31-40. How do these verses describe how Jesus creates life change in us?

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d. Read John 10:27-30. How confident can we be that he won't let go of us? Will Jesus give up on us if we "sin too much" or if our sins are "really bad"?

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#### 4. The Symbol of Baptism

a. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What does this verse say about baptism? As far as Jesus is concerned, who needs to experience baptism?

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b. Read Romans 6:3-7. When a person is baptized, they are lowered into the water and then lifted out again. With this in mind, what does baptism symbolize?

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c. Read Acts 2:37-41, Acts 8:35-38, and Acts 16:29-34 When should a person get baptized? Do we have to wait until we have straightened out the “issues” in our lives?

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- **Note:** Baptism is not what “saves” people from sin, though some verses seem to suggest it. You’ve already read a verse above that says clearly that we are not saved by any deed we do (including baptism; Ephesians 2:8, 9). Baptism is the outward, public symbol and a natural act of obedience acknowledging the fact that Jesus has forgiven us and is changing our hearts and lives.

## 5. Your Story with God

In a separate, typed, one-page document, please describe your experience with God by touching on the following elements of your story. Use the lined sections to make preliminary notes.

Keep in mind two words of encouragement: Please do not share anything in your story that would make you uncomfortable or that would shame, embarrass or hurt loved ones or others in our community.

Please only include information that will be helpful for building up you and those who will hear it. Please remember that there are people sitting in the seats who, right now, are where you were. Treat your story as the one and only opportunity you'll ever have to say to them what you wish someone had said to you about Jesus. Let God use you to inspire them to make some of the changes God is making in you.

- a. In about 150 words (about 1/3 of a page), briefly describe your spiritual life before you decided to trust Christ. What kinds of choices were you making? What were the consequences of those choices?

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- b. In about 150 words (about 1/3 of a page), briefly describe when and/or how you finally decided to make Jesus the Forgiver and Leader of your life. What prompted that decision? Who was influential in it?

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c. In about 150 words (about 1/3 of a page), briefly describe the difference that Jesus is making in your life. How have you seen your life start to change as you give your life and will totally to him?

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**When completed, submit completed to Pastor Jeff,  
[jeff@thegatheringottawa.com](mailto:jeff@thegatheringottawa.com)**