

Dear Friends,

Many of you have dedicated or rededicated your life to Jesus Christ. It is time for you to take the next step in your walk with the Lord. Jesus commands, in Matthew 28:19, that those who become His disciples be baptized.

What is the Slam Dunk?

A Slam Dunk isn't just any old regular basket in a basketball game. It is the scoring shot that every basketball player, no matter how young or old, dreams of making in front of their friends, team, and the crowd. It's the one basket that makes your team stand up and cheer for you and makes your opponent cringe; it changes the mood and momentum of the game.

Baptism literally means to dip, but this is no ordinary 'dunking'. Baptism is the "Slam Dunk" that makes the devil cringe. Satan knows that he has lost when your momentum changes towards the things of God. Baptism is your public declaration of your personal transformation. I am so proud of each and every one of you who dedicate your life to Jesus Christ and want to take this next step - being baptized. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:18-19 [NIV]

Baptism is a public declaration of a personal transformation.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4 [NIV]

1. Admit that you are dead in your sins - or lost
2. Let go, or die, to living life in your own power
3. Live your new life with the power that you receive from God

Further instructions for Kids Rock, Youth, Young Adults, Men, and Women groups for Slam Dunk Baptism Celebration are listed on the reverse side of this page. As well as references for further study in your groups.

Lastly, we are asking everybody to record their testimony after service in the SouthPoint studio. Your story is powerful and can help people so please consider taking some time to think through your testimony and let us take a video of it.

If you are going to take this next step in your Christian walk, please fill out a Connection Card today and indicate your interest by writing "Slam Dunk" on the back, leave it at the YES Table, or place it in the Giving Box before you leave. You can also visit our website, southpointchurch.com/events to register.

Preparing for your baptism:

1. Be at SouthPoint by 8:45am in the Great Room (South Wing)
2. What to bring:
 - A towel or robe to cover-up if you wish
 - Flip-flops
 - Extra change of dry clothes
 - Please dress appropriately for the baptism by:
 - Guys: swim trunks and a t-shirt (not white or light colored)
 - Ladies: t-shirt and shorts over a swimsuit (not white or light colored)

This is an important day in your life and one of the greatest opportunities for you to invite your friends and family members to come to SouthPoint and celebrate with you. Look for invitations at the YES Table for you to use. Also, please consider sharing your story through a two-minute testimony. They will be recorded two weeks before the Slam Dunk and will be shown while you are being baptized.

Be praying for your friends and family as you invite them. God will use this in your life and in theirs. We are so excited about this day, it's going to be such a SLAM DUNK!

Baptism Study References:

- Old Testament Baptism: 2 Kings 5:14
- John's baptism: Matthew 3:11-12
- Jesus' baptism: Matthew 3:13-17
- Jesus' command to baptize: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:16
- Baptism in the early church: Acts 1:4-5, 2:38-41, 8:35-39, 10:47-48, 16:30-33, 19:1-5
- Colossians 2:11-12
- Ephesians 4:5