



Youth Coach Checklist

Have the conversation:

- “Do you understand who Jesus is to you?”
- “What does baptism mean to you? Why do you want to be baptised?”
- “Are your parents ok with baptism and with this date for baptisms?” (we will need to collect a signed parent permission form before baptism)
- Invite your family and friends early so that they can make it when you have a date confirmed!

If you have any concerns about their answers, chat to Singe – we want to make sure that baptism is significant and memorable – we have had experiences in the past where youth later felt that they didn't really understand baptism when they first got baptised and later questioned its significance. We're not trying to 'catch out' youth or decide on their behalf if they are 'ready' or 'really following Jesus', just trying to ensure they are making an informed decision.

Work on their testimony:

Suggested outline:

1. What was life like before Jesus?
2. Why did you decide to follow Jesus (for yourself)?
3. What has been different since following Jesus?

Make sure you tweak these to suit a youth who has 'grown up in a Christian home' – emphasise when they decided to take on faith for themselves as the 'decision point' (some may describe this a process than just a single moment which is a great point to include in their testimony)

In your first conversation, it can be helpful to ask these questions before you tell them that it's good outline for a message – let them answer and then tell them that they just gave their testimony... easy!

Keys to a great testimony:

- 1 A4 sheet long (~3mins)
- Simple, focussing on their relationship with Jesus and what he has done for them.
- No surprises (for instance; behaviours or situations that family don't know about)
- No naming or bagging other Churches or family members
- Limited personal thankyou's, it's about Jesus not others (a few is ok, best placed at the start)
- All baptees end their testimony with “I'm _____, and I have been made new!”
- Testimony must be checked prior to baptism & must be read from notes on the day (no winging it!), we have been caught out by speaking inappropriately. People are also sometimes disappointed because they miss saying stuff that was significant.

Other info to follow up/provide as appropriate:

- Is there a significant Christian from their journey that they'd like in the tank with them? Who? Have they been asked? (Which pastor is conducting the baptisms is decided by the pastoral team)
- Singe needs a copy of the testimony before the day to look over
- Other information about dates, what to bring, location etc. will be provided by Trish directly – but if they have any immediate questions that you can't answer, ask Singe 😊