

# “Let’s chat about baptism”

A framework for conversation for a home visit in response to a request for baptism

**If you are using the suite of baptism resources produced by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in your congregation to help inform those seeking baptism for themselves, or their child, about what baptism is and what is involved, then a follow up conversation with the minister is assumed.**

Those enquiring about baptism will have read either the leaflet ‘*Considering baptism*’ or ‘*Your child, baptism and growing up in the family of God*’. Both leaflets have a series of questions on which readers are invited to reflect personally and further explore with their minister.

Every conversation will be different and will unfold in its own way. However, sometimes it is helpful to think about how to help a conversation begin and prompt participants to articulate their understanding and experience. The framework below is offered to further explore each area introduced in the leaflets.

**From both ‘*Your child, baptism and growing up in the family of God*’ and ‘*Considering baptism*’**

**Do I live depending on God as my heavenly Father?**

*How do you visualise your relationship with God?*

*Does he seem distant, or alongside you, as you live your life?*

*In what ways do you find yourself depending upon him like a child does on a loving father?*

**Have I put my faith in Jesus as Saviour to wash away my sins, as pictured in baptism?**

*Do you find it easy to admit that there are attitudes and actions in your life for which you need to be forgiven by God?*

*How would you describe what it means to you to depend upon what Jesus did in his life, death and resurrection to make you clean in God’s sight?*

*What is your story about how being forgiven came to ring true for you in your life?*

**Am I following Jesus’ way of life, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit?**

*What do you find particularly refreshing about living God’s way? What do you find particularly difficult?*

*When do you find yourself praying to God, asking for his strength and the Holy Spirit’s power, to help you think, act and speak like Jesus?*

**Am I a committed member of the family of the church, regularly worshipping on Sunday?**

*How does your life display a love and commitment to the church, its weekly worship, its work in the world and its place as your wider family of those who follow Jesus?*

**From ‘*Your child, baptism and growing up in the family of God*’**

**Am I fully committed to living out the promises asked at baptism that will shape a distinctively Christian way of life for my family?**

*Relying on God’s help, what do you think will you will need to do to lovingly teach, guide and encourage your child to grow up knowing and loving God and following his ways for their life?*

*What will it mean to set a good example of faith and encouraging their participation in the life of their church family?*

**What questions do I have about understanding what having my children baptised means or what it involves?**

**From ‘*Considering baptism*’**

**Am I fully committed to living out the promises asked at baptism that will shape a distinctively Christian way of life?**

*Relying on God’s help, what do you think you will need to do to grow in knowing and loving God and following his ways for your life?*

*In what ways can you live in close relationship with God day by day and play a full part in the weekly life of your church?*

**What questions do I have about understanding what being baptised means or what it involves?**

