

A 'One Minute Version' of Your Story

The story of how you responded to God's grace in your life by saying "yes" to Jesus is an important part of your baptism. It is first and foremost a declaration that your life story is now being authored by God—your life is now his to direct for his purposes!

At Grace Church, we like to think of the gospel—the 'good news' about Jesus—as best summarized in three (3) acts:

1. **Radical Sin** – Radical sin means that we, as human beings, have all "missed the mark" of what God intended us to be. Rather than serve and love God with everything we have, the gospel tells us that we have rejected him and that this has resulted in us becoming slaves to sin and death.
2. **Radical Grace** – Grace is defined as God's unearned favor toward us displayed in his intense desire to heal our sin and brokenness. In that grace, he offered to take the punishment for our sin on himself through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. He exercised this grace so that we might come into a relationship with him and live as he intended.
3. **Radical Love** – Jesus promised his followers that he would live in our hearts through the ministry and presence of the Holy Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to genuinely love and serve others because he constantly reminds us of the way the Father loved and served us by sending Jesus.

Radical Sin, Radical Grace and Radical Love is one of the best ways to think through your own story. As you begin to write your story down, **start by writing your name**. Then consider writing about the following areas, each of which correspond to the three (3) acts of the gospel mentioned above:

1. **Who You Were (Radical Sin)** – Write 2-3 sentences about what life was like before you said "yes" to Jesus. What caused you to look at the story of Jesus as something that needed to be a part of your life?
2. **The Moment of Conversion (Radical Grace)** – Write 2-3 sentences that describe the moment you said "yes" to Christ. What was that moment like? What did you think/feel/do?
3. **What Will Change (Radical Love)** – Baptism is a statement that a relationship with Jesus has *started*. This means that the rest of our lives here on earth will resemble the life of Jesus more and more. Write 2-3 sentences that share your excitement about following Jesus. How do you anticipate Jesus will change your perspective toward loving him and others going forward?

Keep in mind these thoughts are simply recommendations to help you get started.

The most important thing is that you share the story of how you came to know Jesus and how that has already changed your life. Remember, baptism is simply sharing your Jesus story to all who are present. Your story is yours and no one else's, and we believe it will honor God and celebrate his amazing grace in your life because of Jesus Christ.

So, write down your story! Once you've done so, you can send it to us via email (mec.baptism@graceohio.org) at least one week prior to your baptism date as we help you prepare for your baptism. We're excited to partner with you to share the truth about what Christ has done and is doing in your life with others.