

A Baptism Promise

“Why do you want to be baptized?” Dad asked.

By Jewelene Carter
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in the USA.

“Dad, can I get baptized when I am eight?” Keaton asked.

Dad looked up from the game they were playing. “It’s a big choice. Would it be better to wait until you’re 18?”

Keaton thought about it. “But I’m almost eight now. And 18 is so far away!”

Dad was quiet for a moment. He moved his game piece. “Why do you want to be baptized?”

“I love Jesus,” Keaton said. “And I want to follow Him.”

“That is a great reason to be baptized,” Dad said. He smiled. “I will support you if that’s what you choose. Whether you are eight or 18.”

Keaton wrapped his arms around Dad. “Thanks!”

Dad wasn’t a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. But he still went to church with Keaton and Mom sometimes. And when Keaton gave talks or sang with the other Primary kids in sacrament meeting, Dad always came.

After their game ended, Keaton found Mom in the kitchen.

“Dad said I can be baptized when I am eight,” he said.

Mom grinned. “That’s so exciting! Have you thought about who you want to baptize you?”

Keaton set plates on the table. “Do you think Grandpa can?”

Grandpa and Grandma were serving a mission in another city.

“We can ask,” Mom said.

After dinner, Keaton video called Grandpa and Grandma on Mom’s phone. After a few rings, their smiling faces filled the screen.

“Hi, Grandma! Hi, Grandpa!” Keaton said. “Guess what? I’m going to be baptized for my birthday this year.”

“That’s wonderful!” Grandma said.

“Will you baptize me, Grandpa?” Keaton asked.

Grandpa’s smile got even bigger. “I would love to.”

When his baptism day came, Keaton was ready. Mom and Dad drove him to a small chapel near where Grandpa and Grandma were serving their mission.

Keaton and Grandpa were dressed in white clothes. They sat together while everyone sang. Then Mom said a prayer.

Next, Dad gave a talk. “When you are baptized, you promise to follow Jesus Christ and keep His commandments. He taught us to

love one another. Love is the best way to live,” he said.

Keaton looked at the picture of Jesus Christ that Dad was holding.

“When we love others, it makes them feel cared for. It also helps us to be happy and have peace.” Dad looked straight at Keaton. “I’m proud of you today for promising to follow Jesus Christ. I hope your baptism always reminds you to love God and to love others.”

Keaton gave Dad a big hug. Then he followed Grandpa into the small font. Keaton put one hand on Grandpa’s arm and the other in Grandpa’s hand. Grandpa said the words for the baptismal prayer. Then he helped lower Keaton into the water.

When Keaton came out of the water, he smiled. He did it! He had followed Jesus Christ. Soon, he would also be confirmed and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then he would be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Keaton was excited to keep his promise to remember Jesus and keep His commandments. ●



ILLUSTRATION BY ALYSSA TALLENT



Keaton followed Jesus Christ’s example by being baptized! What’s one way you follow the Savior’s example?