



# Baptism Stories

*"A pioneer is someone who is the first to do something," Mom said.*

**By Noelle Lambert Barrus**  
(Based on a true story)

*This story took place in the USA.*

Mary twirled and looked at her white dress in the mirror. It was the same dress her mom wore at her baptism. Great-Grandma Marluce had fixed it to fit Mary. Now Mary could wear it at her own baptism!

"You are beautiful!" Mom took Mary's hand and spun her around again.

Mary giggled. "Can I keep it on all day?"

"Let's save it to wear for your baptism so it stays nice and clean, OK?" Mom said.

"OK." Mary would be baptized when she turned eight, and she had been preparing for a while now. She had been going to Primary, reading scriptures, and even going to her friends' baptisms. But her birthday still seemed so far away!

Mary cuddled up with Mom on the sofa. "Mommy, how old were you when you were baptized?"

"I was 16."

"Wow! Why did you wait so long?"

Mom wrapped Mary in a tight hug. "Because I didn't know about Jesus Christ's restored Church until then. But I started going to Church activities

with some friends. And the more I learned, the more I wanted to be baptized!"

"Why?" Mary asked.

"Because I wanted to have a forever family." Mom pointed at the picture of the temple hanging above them. "I learned that someday I could be sealed to my family in a temple forever. Having a forever family was my dream. And baptism was the first step! Now my dream is coming true."

Mary smiled. "You have Dad, Mallory, and baby Maeva! And me too, of course."

"Yes, of course. And Grandma Angela."

"Did Grandma get baptized with you?"

"She waited a few years. But whenever we traveled near temples, we liked to stop and look at them."

Mary thought about Mom and Grandma looking at temples together. "And what about Dad? How old was he when he got baptized?"

"He was 11."

"And he lived in Brazil then?"

"That's right," said Mom. "There are people all over the world learning about Jesus and

baptism. Lots of them are pioneers."

"Pioneers?"

"A pioneer is someone who is the first to do something," Mom explained.

Mary thought about that. "Like how you were the first person in your family to get baptized?"

"That's right."

Dad walked into the room and sat with them on the sofa.

"Dad, were you a pioneer in your family?" Mary asked.

"Sort of," Dad said. "After I was baptized, I found out Grandma Rosimere was already a member of our church! But she hadn't gone in years."

"Really? What happened?"

"I started going to church. Then my brothers started going. Then Grandma Rosimere too. Even Great-Grandma Marluce joined!"

Mary imagined Dad going to church by himself and then bringing more of his family with him.

"Wow," Mary said. "I like hearing your stories. They make me even more excited to be baptized."

"Thanks for asking us all these questions, Mary," Dad said. "Now can I ask you one?"

Mary nodded.

"Why do you want to be baptized?" Dad asked.

Mary thought about what she learned from the scriptures and how she felt at church. "Because I want to follow Jesus and be with my family forever."

Mom and Dad both smiled. Mary smiled too. "I can hardly wait!" ●

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