

The Importance of Baptism

As Nephi drew closer to the conclusion of his writings on the small plates, he desired to speak about “the doctrine of Christ.” Consider marking this phrase in 2 Nephi 31:2 and 2 Nephi 31:21.

Baptism is an essential component of the Savior’s doctrine. However, some people feel that they do not need to be baptized. They believe that they can show faith in the Savior and follow Him without being baptized.

Read 2 Nephi 31:4–13 together, looking for truths Nephi taught that can help us understand the importance of baptism. The following information may be helpful in understanding these verses:

1. To “fulfil all righteousness” (2 Nephi 31:5–6; see also Matthew 3:15) means to fulfill God’s requirements for eternal life (see John 3:5).
2. The phrases “with full purpose of heart,” “acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God,” and “with real intent” (2 Nephi 31:13) refer to being completely sincere in one’s efforts and commitment to follow the Son of God.
3. “To speak with the tongue of angels” (2 Nephi 31:13) is to speak the words of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost (see 2 Nephi 32:3).

Complete the following statements based on what you learned from 2 Nephi 31:4–13:

Jesus Christ, though sinless, was baptized to _____ (see 2 Nephi 31:5–7).

Jesus Christ set the perfect _____ of _____ for us to follow (see 2 Nephi 31:7, 9–10, 12).

If we sincerely _____ and follow the Savior by being _____, then we will receive _____ (see 2 Nephi 31:11–13).

Discuss the following questions together:

- How does the Savior’s example illustrate the importance of baptism?
- Like the Savior, what do we show Heavenly Father by choosing to be baptized?

