If you are thinking of getting started with water bath canning, but you don't know your lid-lifter from your air-bubbler, you need to check out the post below from 'Canning Across America'. The post covers water bath canning tools and equipment, and there is straightforward advice on the actual water bath canning process.

Additionally, I highly, highly recommend the book: Ball Complete Book of Home Preserving (click to view on Amazon), it may well be the best $14 you ever spend, as it will likely become your canning and food preserving bible.

Water Bath Canning Cheat Sheet

(From: Canning Across America)