

Baptism session

Aims:

- Children introduced to church atmosphere
- Children introduced to concept of Trinity & symbolism
- Children experience a Christian ceremony

Objectives:

- Knowledge of font
- Children know water & light are significant symbols
- Understanding of promises being made at ceremonies

Needed:

Water in font	3 felt circles
Baby doll	water & jug
church candle	matches
Small candle/nightlight	dove/bubbles

Still children in lobby:

“Why have you come across today?”

If children answer with keywords, ask volunteers to find font etc – others say if they think they’re right.

Children join others on steps of sanctuary – me at bottom.

Put your hands up if:

- You’ve been to a baptism/christening?
- you know you’ve been baptised?

Today we’re going to explore the idea of baptism together

- Find out what happens at a baptism
- & what it’s all about.

“Before you set off on a journey, you have to get ready. You work out what you’re going to need, what you need to do to get there safely, (Ask children what they might pack) & when you’ve got everything ready, you might have a bath or shower so you can feel fresh & clean on your journey.

“Some people say that life is like a journey. Baptism is what some people do at the start, to prepare for the journey of life. “

Unroll circles

“We baptise people in the name of the Father (1) Son (2) & Holy Spirit (3)”

Indicate first circle

God the Father, who made all things

Indicate second circle

Jesus, his son, who showed us how to live

Indicate third circle

The Holy Spirit – God with us & God in us

Put bowl onto circle & pour water

God made water. Water gives us life. Water makes us clean. We use water in baptism

Bring out candle & light

Jesus told people “I am the light of the world”.

Light makes us feel safe. Light shows us the way ahead. Light makes us feel warm.

Blow bubbles

The Holy Spirit is like the wind.

You can’t see it, but you know it is strong because it makes things move.

Point to all three

Christians believe God, Jesus & The Holy Spirit will help us in the journey of life.

In baptism, we ask for their help.

Now we're going to move over to the font, to see what happens in a baptism service.

Take candle & water to font

Get volunteer (chosen by teacher) to light the big candle

"Some people are baptised as babies or children. Others choose to be baptised when they're grown-ups, like Jesus was. We're going to use a baby doll for this baptism.

There are lots of important people at a baptism:

The baby

Its parents (*choose*)

Godparents

Family & friends

The congregation (*explain*)

Give two children the doll & ask them to stand by font

We thank God for water & all it means to us (*ask*)

Then we ask the parents the baby's name.

Children name the doll – ask for the baby

Splash baby three times:

(*name*) I baptise you in the name of the Father, & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen

By baptism God has received you into the church

Cross sign:

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

Pick up candle & light:

We give (*name*) a candle, lit from the Jesus candle.

It will remind of his/her baptism – *give to parent*

"..... receive this light, for you belong to Jesus, the light of the world"

And we say a prayer for the baby:

"The Lord bless you & keep you & give you peace" Amen

It's not always easy to live a Christian life.'s going to need help.

Who could help her? Yes – Mum & Dad – so we ask them to make promises

Will you love your baby & look after him/her

With God's help we will

Will you bring them to church to make friends there?

With God's help we will

Will you help them learn about Jesus?

With God's help we will

We ask 's God parents if they'll help the parents, too & they say?.....

Then we ask all the family & friends & the other people in church to stand up & make a promise(stand)

Will you help this baby to learn about Jesus?

To make sure they know the baby we show them to everyone – we go on a little walk. (*Parade group*)

The people in church show how important the baby is by saying something to them.

"We welcome you into God's family" (*repeat*)

"we are children of the same Heavenly Father" (*repeat*)

"We welcome you" (*repeat*)

And we finish by saying a prayer for them .

"Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father" (*discuss*)

If finish – sing this little light of mine