



Unit 1.7: Why is Baptism special?

Christian Values:
Faith - Love.

Key Vocabulary:

Baptism: Ceremony in which someone is sprinkled/immersed in water as a sign that he or she has become a Christian.

Font: Bowl in a church that holds water for baptisms.

Christening: Christian ceremony in which a child is given a name and made a member of a church.

Vicar: A priest in the Church of England.

Minister: Member of the clergy.

Priest: A person who can administer the sacraments (communion), preach and perform religious ceremonies.

Godparents: A person who promises at a child's baptism to bring the child up as a Christian.

Water: Used as a symbol of new life during baptism, to remind us of Jesus' baptism.

Belonging: A close relationship with something/someone (e.g. with God, Jesus, the church).

Key Questions:

What does it mean to 'belong'?

What is baptism? Why are some people baptised?

Why is baptism special?

What is a promise? Where is it kept? How is it kept?

What makes you feel as if you are part of God's family?

How do people of faith welcome new babies?

Key Bible Passages:

Jesus' baptism - Matthew 3:13-16, Mark 1:9-13, Luke 3:21-23



Christian Concepts:

God: In the beginning God....

Salvation: God's people are saved because through Jesus; sin is dealt with and forgiveness offered.

Key Knowledge:

Baptism: promises are made to God and people are welcomed as a member of the church.



Water is a symbol of baptism. People can be baptised at any age, in the font at church, in a pool, a river or the sea.

Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan.

World Faiths

Islam: Muslims welcome a child by the father whispering the call to prayer into the child's ear. The baby's first taste should be something sweet so parents may chew a piece of date and rub the juice along the baby's gums. It was a practice carried out by the Prophet Muhammad.

Hinduism: Once the child enters the world, Jatakarma is performed to welcome the child into the family, the father of the child puts ghee and some honey into the child's mouth and whispers the name of God in the child's ear.

Sikhism: When the baby is born it is the first action of the mother to pray, the words of the Mool Mantar (a prayer) are whispered into the ears of the child and a drop of honey is placed inside the mouth.