

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children learn about the church building being an important gathering place for God's Family. They will be introduced to some of the important symbols and actions of the Baptismal Rite.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning in the Nursery about Baptism being a special celebration using water.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would help if children have:
seen some photographs of a Baptism taking place.

SKILLS

Discussion, identifying symbols, speaking and listening, role-play.

VOCABULARY

Baptism, Church, God's Family, water, Baptismal Candle, Christian Name.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that at Baptism they are given a Christian name. They will be able to participate in a role-play of the celebration and identify a few symbols of Baptism. They will know that Baptism is a special celebration to welcome people into God's Family. They will also know that Jesus' Presentation in the Temple was a special celebration for him.

Less able children will know that Baptism is a special celebration for God's Family. They will also be able to take part in a role-play of the celebration.

More able children will have a greater understanding of the meaning of a Christian name and of some of the words and actions at Baptism. They will be able to talk about Jesus being the Light of the World.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Ch2 'Church' as 'a house of God' where people gather.

Ch3 Ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life and show care for one another.

R6 Hear and become familiar with main events characters and places in the life of Jesus.

Recall with the children previous work on families. Our families are very special. Think about broader concept of family beyond their own home, e.g. class family, school family.

The gathering place for God's Family is the Church. Revisit with the children photographs and pictures of God's Family coming together to celebrate in church. Recall some of the things that are happening in the pictures. Explain to the children that just as people at home have jobs to do there are jobs which people do at Church (e.g. reading, collecting money, singing in the choir).

Revisit photographs and pictures of a Baptismal ceremony. Explain to the children that at Baptism they were welcomed as members of God's Family. Explore children's experience of being welcomed. Recall nursery work on Baptism where the focus was on water. Why is water important to us? Create a simple role play of the Baptismal liturgy using the symbols of water, the words of pouring, mums and dads and Godparents, etc. Explore the importance of the giving of a name at Baptism. Reflect with the children that each of us has been called by God by name. Children to learn that their first name is their Christian name, because they belong to the Family of God through Baptism. Introduce the children to the Baptismal Candle. When do we need light? Why is it important? Play Blindman's Buff and discuss experience and feelings of not being able to see. Relate this to night time/being somewhere dark. How do we feel when the light comes on? Jesus said "I am the Light" Jesus was trying to tell the people that he would be there to care for them and keep them safe Simplify words from Baptismal service which refer to receiving the Baptismal Candle. Ask the children to bring into school their Baptismal Candle if they have one and any photographs of their Baptism. Create a simple role play of the Baptismal liturgy using the symbols of water, the words of pouring, the giving of a special name, mums, dads and God parents, the receiving of lighted candle. Explore with the children ways in which "Christ is our Light". Make some candle shapes out of card. Write some "shape prayers" on the card about Jesus leading and guiding us.

Children to hear the story of the Presentation. Know that Jesus was called the Light of the World on this occasion. This is a special celebration and is marked by lighting candles in church. Create a display of Christian names around a picture and actual Baptismal candle.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Ch2 Of how people belong to the Church.
Ch3 Of different forms of ministry in the Church
(e.g. Eucharistic minister, reader, priest, etc.).

Know that through Baptism we become part of God's Family.
Know that water is poured onto the head of the person being baptised.
Understand that we have been given a special name – a Christian name.

Know that the Baptismal Candle reminds us that Jesus is our Light.
Be able to think about ways in which Jesus can be like a light helping and guiding us.
Be able to take part in a simple role play of the Baptismal Liturgy.

R6 That Jesus is the Son of God.
Know about the story of the Presentation of Jesus.
Know that Jesus was revealed as the Light of the World.

Traditional games
Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

Create a church building in the area of the home corner.

Learn some simple songs and hymns about belonging to God's family.

Sing simple songs about being called by name.

Learn simple songs about Jesus being the light of the world and showing his light through our actions.

Make a simple role-play of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

OTHER LINKS

Foundation Stage: Some links might be made with the Foundation Stage topic on Water.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Recall the Sign of the Cross and the words that are said when water is poured at Baptism. The Sign of the Cross reminds us that we belong to the Family of God. Learn some simple songs about belonging to God's Family. Have a bowl of Holy Water on the prayer table as a reminder of Baptism and belonging to God's Family.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?