



SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to raise the children's awareness of occasions for celebration, particularly marriage. That celebrations are happy occasions which may include prayers.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Builds on celebration explored in the units to date.

PRIOR LEARNING

That there are many reasons to celebrate and that some of these take place in church.

SKILLS

Pouring water, singing, clapping, drawing, painting, party games.

VOCABULARY

Wedding, Jesus, Mary, friends, celebration, Bible.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that celebrations are happy occasions. That a wedding is a special celebration when people love each other. People wear special clothing.

Less able children will be able to recall a time of celebration in their lives.

More able children will recall some features of the story of the Marriage Feast of Cana.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R3 Recognise relationships of love, e.g. parent – child, and love received and given; e.g. sharing.

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

C3 To hear simple prayers and hymns.

- Play a celebrations game. Use visual and oral clues to a variety of celebrations (e.g. tune of Happy Birthday, wedding horseshoe, etc.). Children to guess the celebration.
- Explore common themes of celebrating (e.g. people, food, games, etc.).
- Draw/paint pictures to illustrate celebrations the children have participated in.
- Play party games, e.g. musical bumps, Simon says.

- Each Sunday people gather in church to celebrate together. Recall some of the things that happen in church on a Sunday.
- Another reason to gather in Church is to celebrate a wedding.
- Show photographs or have bridal magazines to talk about the special celebration of a wedding.
- Explore children's experience of weddings. Videos. Make use of bridal dolls where available.

- A wedding is a special celebration for people who love each other.
- Hear the story of the Marriage Feast of Cana.
- Role-play the story using large containers. Children practise pouring skills. What did Jesus do to help make the wedding special?
- Explain to the children that at a wedding in church we ask Jesus to help the people getting married.
- Celebration Liturgy. Teachers may wish to focus on a topical event in their own class. Include clapping, prayers and songs of praise.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R3 Form and enjoy good relationships with peers and with adults in the school community.

Ch3 Recognise that the Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.

- Marriage is a special celebration for people who love each other.
- Be able to talk about photographs of people getting married in a church.
- Hear a story of a wedding.

C3 To listen to and participate in simple prayers and hymns.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Another opportunity to show the children a Bible and for them to learn that stories about Jesus come from this book.

Personal and Social Development.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Jn. 2: 1-11 – The Marriage Feast at Cana

OTHER LINKS

- Photographs of celebrations.
- Social aspects of “turn-taking” when playing games.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Bible as a reference book from which stories about Jesus are taken. That this book is a focus of reverence.
- To incorporate Alleluia as a word of celebration within liturgy.
- Singing/clapping to signify praise.

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?