



YEAR

4

UNIT E

## JESUS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND BELOVED SON

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children study some important stories about the life of Jesus and the revelation of his presence in the world. They will also learn about some of the symbols of Baptism and their association with belonging to the Family of God.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work on Baptism in Year 3 and previous study of some of these stories in Year 2.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the symbols of Baptism.

### SKILLS

Research skills, discussion, interpreting symbolism, writing skills, speaking and listening, role-play.

### VOCABULARY

Baptism, Presentation, Transfiguration, Beloved Son, Light of the World, Oil of Chrism, Baptismal Candle, White Garment.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know the stories of the Baptism, Presentation and Transfiguration of Jesus. They will understand that at these events Christ is revealed as the Light of the World and the Beloved Son of God. They will know that through Baptism, Christians become the Children of God and will identify symbols from the Baptismal liturgy that express this belief.	3a 3b 3c	3c
<b>Less able children will</b> know that Christ is the Light of the World and the Son of God through their study of the stories of the Baptism and Presentation of Jesus. They will identify different symbols from the Baptismal liturgy and be able to explain the meaning of some of them.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2c
<b>More able children will</b> have a greater understanding of the titles given to Jesus in the stories studied in this unit. They will be able to provide examples of how Christ is like a light for his followers today. The children will be able to ask questions about the meaning and purpose of Baptism.	4a 4b 4c	4a 4b 4c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R2** Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

**C4** The Church's celebrations of significant events in the life of Jesus: The Presentation of Jesus and the Feast of Candlemas.

**R2** Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Baptism of the Lord.

**C6** Signs and symbols and their significance in liturgy.

**R2** Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Transfiguration.

- Brainstorm ideas about what the children think about the light and darkness.
- Children to write a poem about light and how it makes them feel.
- Children to work in groups and create "mind maps" about light and darkness, and what light and darkness helps them to do, or stops them doing.
- Children to read the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.
- Children to write a diary account as one of the characters in the Temple at the Presentation of Jesus (e.g. Simeon, Anna, Mary or Joseph).
- Explain that Mary and Joseph were fulfilling the Jewish Law by presenting Jesus in the Jewish Temple. This was an act of his consecration to God.
- Read with the children the Nunc dimittis. Highlight the words about Simeon. Who is he saying the Prayer to, and what is he saying about the child Jesus?
- What title does Simeon give to God?
- What does the word "Salvation" mean? What does the word "Glory" mean?
- Simeon prayed that God had fulfilled his promise and had waited for this moment. Revise previous work on the promise made to Abraham and his descendants. Explore the idea that Jesus is the fulfilment of all that God promised Abraham and his descendants.
- What do you think Simeon meant when he described Jesus as the "Light of the Nations?"
- What does this mean for Christians?
- We describe Jesus as the "Light of the World". Children to create prayers and reflections explaining what this title of Jesus means to them.
- Find out how the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus?
- Children to take part in a special liturgy focussed on the theme of light.

- Look at representations of the Baptism of Jesus in Religious art.
- Look at the posture of the characters and their expressions.
- Identify the setting of the paintings and the symbol of the Holy Spirit in the painting.
- What do you learn about the baptism of Jesus from this Religious art.
- Imagine you were working in an art gallery, how would you describe this painting to the people who came to view it.
- Find the river Jordan on the map of the Holy Land, identify some of the places that are near to it.
- What does the voice say about Jesus in the story of his Baptism?
- What does it tell us about Jesus' relationship with God?
- Explain through Baptism Christians become the children of God in a special way and brothers and sisters of Jesus.
- Why do you think it might be important to belong to God's family? Children to write their ideas.
- Revise the signs and the symbols of the Rite of Baptism which remind us that Christians become the children of God through this Sacrament. Include here:
  - White Baptismal garment reminding us that we are clothed with God's life.
  - A Baptismal candle reminding us that we live in the light of Christ.
  - The Oil of Chrism reminding us that we are anointed to live like Jesus.
  - The giving of a Christian name reminding us that we are called by name to belong to God's family.
- Ask the children to research the meaning of their Baptismal name if it is associated with a Saint.
- Why do you think Christians call their first name a Christian name?

- Children to read the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
- What does "transfigured" mean?
- Children to role-play the story.
- How is Jesus described in this story?
- Children to create a play script of the story. Encourage children to include the feelings and reactions of the Disciples, the features on Jesus' face at his Transfiguration and appropriate vocabulary which describes the characters at the time.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R2** That God his Father prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus; that Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition (multi-cultural dimension); that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the finding of Jesus in the Temple
- Understand that Jesus was described as a light to the world at his Presentation.
- Imagine and write about the thoughts and feelings of Simeon and Anna and Mary and Joseph on the day they found him in the Temple.

**C4** A developing awareness of the customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons.

**R2** That God his Father prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus; that Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition; that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know the story of the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.
- Understand that Jesus is revealed as the beloved son.
- Discuss reasons why his relationship with God was so important.

**C6** Of the significance and power of signs and symbols for Christians around the world.

- Know the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
- Be able to imagine the Disciples thoughts and feelings at this event.

**R2** That God his Father prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus; that Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition; that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
- Understand that Jesus is the Beloved Son of God.
- Be able to empathise with the disciples' thoughts and feelings.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use the Nunc Dimittis as a class Prayer at this time.  
Learn hymns about Jesus being the "Light of the World".

Find out who Moses and Elijah are?  
Find Mount Tabor on the map of the Holy Land.

continued...

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Children to imagine that they were one of the disciples on the mountain with Jesus. What questions might you have asked Jesus, Moses and Elijah if you had been there?
- In the story of the Transfiguration and the Baptism of Jesus he is revealed as the Beloved Son. Why do you think his relationship with God was so important to him?
- What does God say about his Son at the Transfiguration?
- What do you think God might say about us?
  
- Conclude this unit of work by recalling all the different things the children have learnt about Jesus from these different events in his life.
- Children to imagine they were about to meet somebody who had never heard of Jesus before. Create a presentation about him from these three events in his life.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Lk. 2: 22-40* – The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

*Mt. 3: 13-17* – The Baptism of Jesus

*Mt. 17: 1-3* – The Transfiguration of Jesus

*Lk. 9: 25-36*

## OTHER LINKS

Science Links: Light

School-Parish Links: Exploring  
Baptismal Symbols

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Pray for those who are to be Baptised
- Recall promises made for us at Baptism.  
Pray for parents and Godparents.
- Lead the children in an imaginative contemplation of the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
- Reflect on being called into the Family of God through Baptism. We are the beloved children of God.
- Learn some songs and hymns about the Transfiguration of Jesus.

## 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?**