

YEAR

BAPTISM

5

UNIT E

ABOUT THE UNIT

The unit explores the role of John the Baptist in the Baptism of Jesus and provides an opportunity for an in-depth study of the signs, symbols and prayers associated with the Sacrament of Baptism.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning about John the Baptist during Advent.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some understanding of the signs and symbols associated with Baptism.

SKILLS

Research skills, geography skills, comparing texts, interpreting symbols, art skills, presenting information in different forms, sequencing skills.

VOCABULARY

Sacrament, Baptism, John the Baptist, sign, symbol, action.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will be able to reference Gospel accounts of the Baptism of Jesus. They will be able to describe, sequence and explain many of the signs, symbols and actions in the Sacrament of Baptism.	3c 4a	4a 4c
Less able children will know the story of the Baptism of Jesus and recall some actions that take place at Baptism.	3c	3c
More able children will ask deeper questions about the meaning of the signs and symbols of Baptism. Recognise A number of reasons why this Sacrament is so important to people.	4a 4c 5a 5b	4a 4c 5a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R4 Hear, read and explore Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Baptism.

- Recall previous work in Advent on the coming of the Messiah and the message of John the Baptist.
- Use a biblical map to locate the River Jordan. Use the Key to help to identify the physical features and write a brief description of the area.
- Discuss reports on the news from this area. Are the news reporters today reporting from an area whose features match the descriptions that have been written?
- What are the temperatures in that part of the world? Use newspapers to help and travel magazines.

- Find the Gospel reference for the Baptism of Jesus. Is it in more than one Gospel?
- Compare and contrast the different accounts.
- Children to imagine they had gone to John for Baptism. If they had they been there how might they have viewed John? What would you have told the neighbours when you got home?
- How might John have felt about his special role and responsibility?
- Did he fit in with the crowd or was he different from them? Think of his clothes and the things he ate. How do we react when we are in close contact with people who are different?
- Write an account of John's arrival at the River Jordan from John's point of view and the reaction of the people at that time.

- What did John feel like when Jesus came to him and asked for Baptism?
- Draw pictures of the two of them by the River Jordan and create speech bubbles to record their conversation.
- Research some paintings of the Masters which record the Baptism of Jesus and use these to produce paintings, drawings and pastels in the style of
- Look at Bible references that follow the Baptism of Jesus what did he do next and how did he begin his ministry?

- God was very pleased with his Son.
- When have we made our parents proud of us? What do we need to do to achieve this?

- Revise previous learning about the seven Sacraments being powerful signs through which Jesus Christ continues his work today.
- Revise with the children the three categories for the Sacraments. Initiation or belonging, healing and commitment.

C9 Understand the significance and power of signs and symbols.

C6 The rites of Baptism and the response they invite.

C8 Elements of sacramental celebration, e.g. blessing, exchanging, greetings, praise.

- Explore the Order of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Recall that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his Baptism.
- Explain that this is also given to those being Baptised.
- Focus on the words and actions of this Sacrament and build further on the work of previous years.
- Explore some of the promises that are made at Baptism. What do they mean?
- Create a table on the computer in landscape format with columns that separate and identify moments of blessing, prayers, signs and symbols.
- Create a "Power-Point" style presentation to share with the rest of the school about this Sacrament.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R4 That the Gospels proclaim that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises.

- Know the story of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan.
- Understand that this marked the beginning of his ministry.
- Be able to empathise with his thoughts and the feelings of John at this time and some possible reactions by the crowd.

c9 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols in the Sacrament of Baptism.

c11 Of the promises of Baptism and how they are to be lived and renewed.

c8 Of how to participate in and prepare celebrations.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Collect different representations of the Baptism of Jesus in religious art.

It would be useful if the children saw a video presentation of a Baptism taking place.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 3: 13-1

Mk. 1: 9-11

Lk. 3: 21-22 – The Baptism of Jesus

Jn. 1: 29-34

OTHER LINKS

Parish link: Send congratulations and prayer cards to those who have just been baptised.

I.C.T. Link: Take digital photographs of some baptisms

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Write prayers for those who have been baptised.
- Learn some hymns about Baptism.
- Use Baptismal promises in a prayer service.

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?