

Making Promises: Baptism

Many Christians believe that it is important to welcome a new baby into the Christian faith by baptising them. The baptism ceremony is also sometimes also called a christening. A baptism is a special gathering of family friends to welcome a baby into the Church. It is a joyful celebration and, also, a very serious event as the baby's parents choose godparents for the baby who will be special friends to the baby throughout his or her life. Also, during a baptism, the parents and godparents make promises to help the baby grow up as a good Christian person. Special symbols are used to represent the importance of these promises and to remind everyone there of some of the main beliefs and teachings of the Christian faith.

This work will help you to understand what happens at Christian baptism and to think about why baptising a baby is important for many Christians.

Baptising Baby Jamie

Watch these two clips about the baptism of Baby Jamie. Make some notes about three things that happened during the baptism ceremony.

A Christian baptism, Part 1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zxd2hyc>



A Christian baptism, Part 2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zcb9jxs>



22 Baby Abi's Baptism: Just like Jamie, baby Abi is also going to be baptised by her local vicar, Reverend Elaine. What are Reverend Elaine and Becky thinking, feeling and saying?

I'm Reverend Elaine. Today I'm thinking . . .

I'm Abi's mum, Becky. Today I am thinking . . .

Can you use these words as you fill in the bubbles?

Promise
God
Baptism
Christening
Thrilled



Can you use these words as you fill in the bubbles?

Responsibility
Committed
Thankful
Worshipping
Hoping
Symbol of water

I think Reverend Elaine is feeling . . .

because . . .

I think Becky is feeling . . .

because . . .

Activity 2

Abi's baptism: what happened and why?

Fill in the missing words from this list:

baptism

shine

belonging

water

Jesus

cross

thankful

life

promises

minister

third

light

Little Abi's mum and dad are Christians, so when she was born they were very _____ to God. They took Abi to church on Sunday for her _____. It's a sign of _____ to God. Mums and dads make _____ at a baptism, to help the child grow up as a Christian.



There are three symbols at a baptism. The _____ brings the baby to a font and makes the sign of a _____ on her head. It's a reminder of _____. Then the minister baptises the baby by pouring _____ on her head three times. It is a sign of a clean, fresh, new _____.



The _____ symbol is a candle. Jesus said He was the '_____ of the world.' Each Christian – even baby Abi – can _____ for Jesus. Anyone can be kind. Anyone can pray for other people. The candle will be lit again when Abi is confirmed.



Invitation to a Baptism

Use the space below to design an invitation to a baby's baptism. Decorate it to show at least two symbols used in a baptism. Include a sentence or two about what the baptism will be like and why it is important to the baby and his or her family.

These resources have been taken from Opening Up RE Promises



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