



Christianity

Why do Christians make and keep promises before God?

Hello Kusama and Van Gogh

We are starting a new topic in RE.

This term, we are going to be learning more about the different kinds of promises that Christians make before God. First, we will explore all the different groups that we belong to and the importance of belonging. Then we are moving on to explore and learn all about Christian Baptism.

We hope you enjoy the learning and we can't wait to see some examples of your wonderful work!

Miss Wetz and Miss Wilson

Lesson 1 – Belonging



We all belong to lots of different groups (family, friendship, faith communities, clubs e.g. Beavers, Cub Scouts, sports, music).

Task 1

With a member of your family, have a think about what groups you belong to and then discuss or write down some thoughts in response to these questions:

How do we feel when we belong to something?

What would it be like to be left out / not belong?

Therefore, what should we each do to help each other to belong?

*When you are part of a group, what promises do you make to each other?
(To be on time, look after each other, teamwork)*

Task 2

Draw a picture of yourself in the middle of a piece of paper and then draw all of the different groups that you belong to around the outside. Add words to describe how belonging feels.

Lesson 2 – Baptism

Today, we are going to learn about baptisms.

A Christening or Baptism is the way that Churches officially welcome people into the Christian family as full members. It is a special ceremony and an act of worship. Baptism ceremonies may differ in different churches but they all mark the members becoming a part of the church and a follower of Jesus.

Have you ever been to a christening or baptism? Do you know if you are christened / baptised? If you can remember a christening or baptism, think about:

What happened at the ceremony?

What do you remember about it?

Task 1

Watch the following clips all about Baptism. Discuss what's happening.

If possible, link to what you might have seen in church or at a baptism you have been to.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zm87tfr>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zr34wmn>

Task 2

Match the following pictures to their correct descriptions. These words will form a word bank for the rest of our RE topic.



They help the child to grow up as a Christian.

This is where the child is baptised in front of friends and family.

This is the age when many Christians are baptised.

Lit after the baptism to symbolise that the child will shine, just as Jesus did.

This is splashed over the child's head to symbolise washing away of sin.

Lesson 3 – Baptism Ceremony

Lots of churches have a font (see the pictures below), which has water in it. The vicar will hold the baby's head over the font and then sprinkle the baby with water.

The vicar will say the words: 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

Task

Draw your own Baptism scene and design your own font. You could draw it, or even make one! The font should be decorated with appropriate Christian symbols (e.g. crosses, doves) because it is a place for Christians to make special promises to God. Here are some pictures to help you:

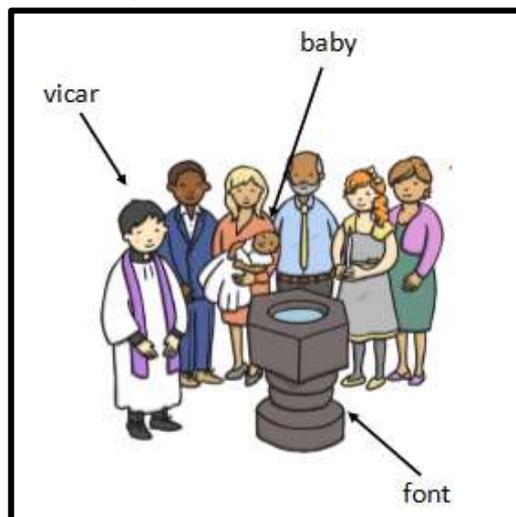


When you have drawn your font and baptism scene you need to label the features and symbols and explain what everything means.

Here are some key features that you should include:

vicar	God parents	candle	gown	baby	holy water	font
-------	-------------	--------	------	------	------------	------

Here is the start of Miss Wetz's baptism scene:



Challenge

When a baby is baptised, it is the parents / carers and godparents that make promises on behalf of the baby. Some people think babies should not be baptised because it should be left until they are old enough to make the choice for themselves. What do you think, and why?

Lesson 4 – Baptism Promises

When a baby is baptised some promises are made at the Baptism ceremony. Being baptised means that you are promising to follow God. Promises are also made by the parents and the Godparents to bring the baby up as a Christian.

Task 1

Have a think and discuss these questions:

Why might it be a good idea to make a promise when a baby is born?

What might a mum or dad promise to a baby when he / she is born?

Miss Wilson thinks it is a good idea to make a promise when a baby is born because the baby will need love and support to grow up.

Miss Wetz thinks a mum or dad might promise to look after a baby and to help protect the baby as it grows up.

Task 2

Write your own prayer for a new baby beginning their Christian life at their Baptism. There is a candle template on **page 9** that you might like to use to write your prayer. Or you can design your own prayer template on a piece of paper.

Here are some ideas that you might pray for a new baby beginning their Christian life, but try coming up with some of your own too.

To love and protect the baby.

To help the baby learn and grow.

To give the baby all that is needed to grow up healthy and happy.

To surround the baby with love and family.

Lesson 5 – Jesus’ Baptism

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about Jesus’ Baptism.

Task 1

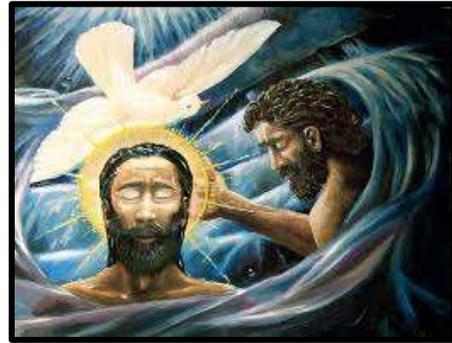
Go through the slides and at the end discuss these questions:

*How do you think John the Baptist might have felt?
(He thought he was not worthy to baptise Jesus).*

Why was it important to Jesus to be baptised?

How do you think Jesus felt when he was baptised?

What does the Baptism of Jesus mean for Christians?



Task 2

Next we are going to explore Jesus’ Baptism a bit further and you have two options! Use this sequence of events to help you:

Jesus’ Baptism sequence of events:

John the Baptist devoted his life to encouraging people to repent of their sins and people flocked to be baptised by him.

Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptised by John.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove.

A voice from heaven said, “This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

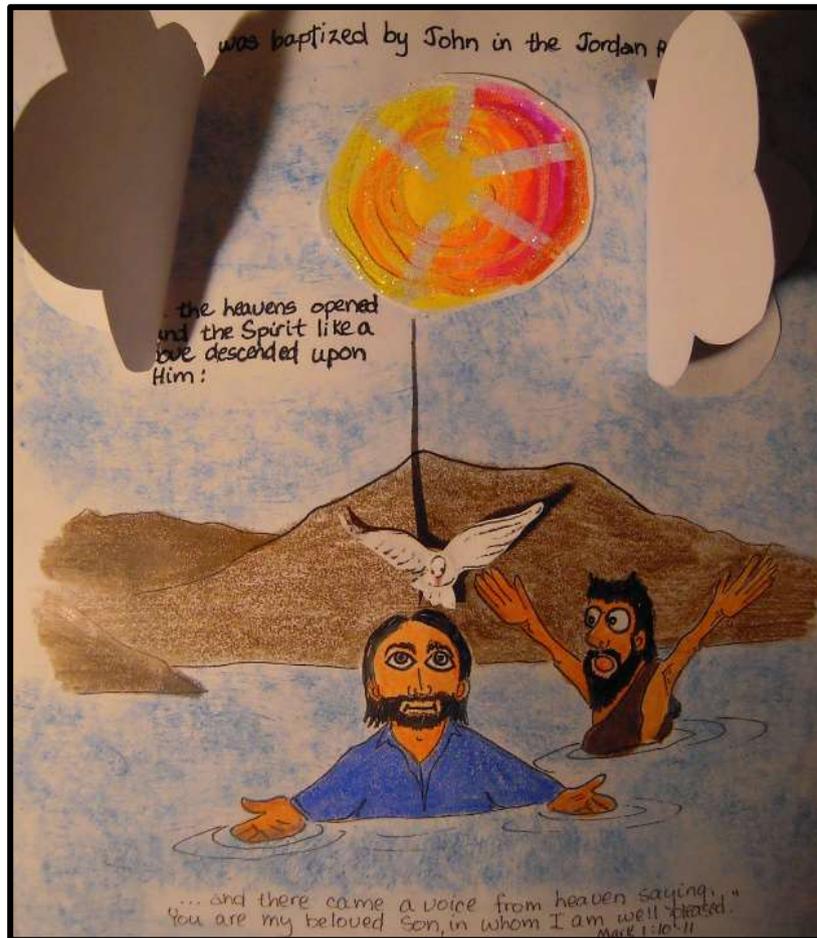
Option 1

Act out the events of Jesus’ Baptism using freeze frames and think about what the key characters and bystanders might have thought and said.

Option 2

Draw a scene from the Baptism and write down the key points that happened.

Here is an example:



Lesson 6 – Breaking promises

Sometimes when we make promises we may accidentally break them. It is not always easy to be a good friend and to make good choices and sometimes we will make mistakes and we will have to say sorry to others.

Task 1

Have a think about what we could do when we break a promise, how could we put it right?



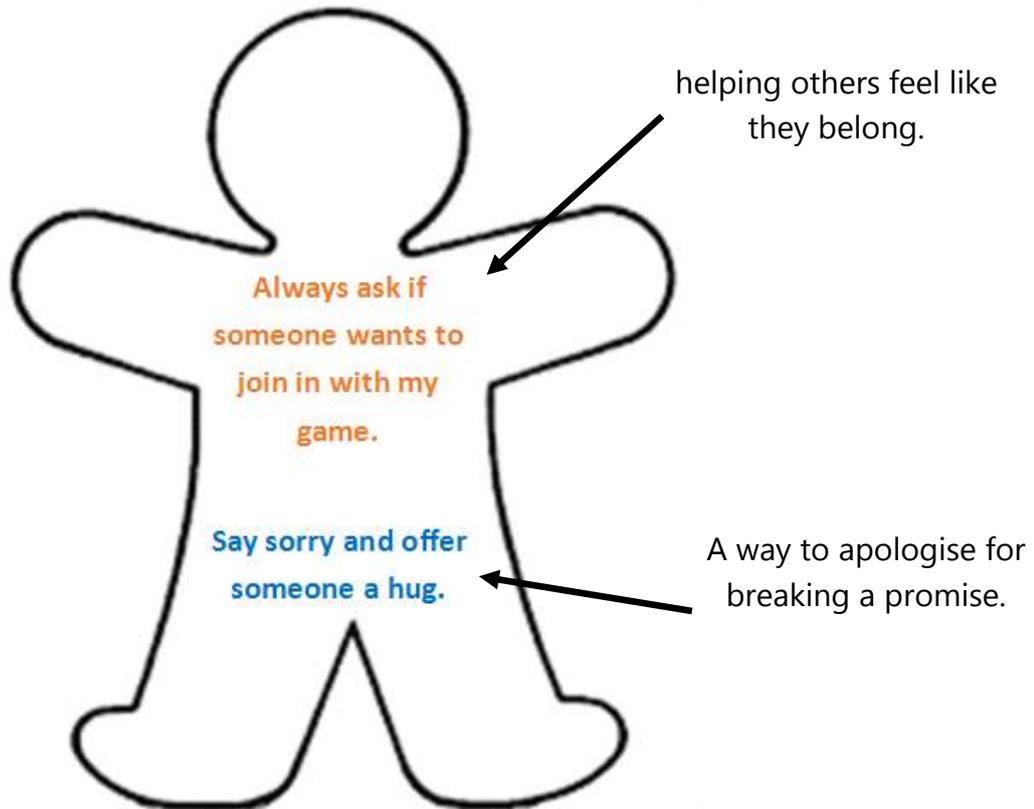
Miss Wilson thinks that when we break a promise we could apologise and say sorry.

Miss Wetz agrees and also thinks that we could do something that will make you and the people that you love happy again.

Task 2

Draw a picture of yourself and on the back or around the picture write down things you can do to help others feel like they belong and things you can do to say sorry and make things right. There is a template on **page 10** or you can draw your own outline on paper..

Example



Lesson 4 – Baptism prayer candle template



Lesson 6 – Person outline

