

LESSON 17: Baptism



AIM

To develop an understand of the meaning of Baptism. (5.1.3)

OUTCOME

Learners show an understanding of the meaning of Baptism.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Ask the children to share experiences of **birthdays and birthday parties**. What do we celebrate on such occasions? On our birthday, all those close to us celebrate our coming into the world. Put up a picture of a birthday party, or pictures of things associated with such an event. Discuss how people feel and what activities are done at a birthday party.
- 2 **Baptism:** (Be sensitive to those who may not have been baptized.) Ask children what they know of this celebration. To remind them, you could perform a simplified baptism ceremony, explaining that at Baptism, we are born into God's family.

If we were still infants at the time, our parents and godparents brought us to the church. The celebrant poured water over our heads and said: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The celebrant made the sign of the cross on our heads with oil. A candle was lit for us. The celebrant said: "Receive the light of Christ." All the family and the people of the church celebrate our Baptism.

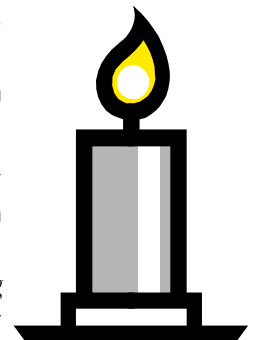
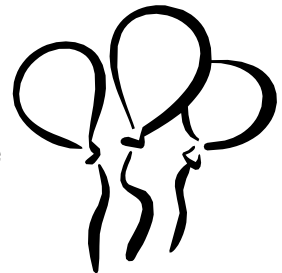
- 3 **Candlelight relay:** Arrange the class in equal teams. The members of each team are divided into two, one half of the team standing at the start, and the other half, 20 or 30 metres away. Have a captain for each relay team. Each group has a lit candle -be careful of burning hands with hot wax.

The first person in each team walks the 20 or 30 metres to the other half of the team with the lit candle. He or she passes it to the next team member who walks back to pass it again, and so on until the last person finishes. If the flame goes out along the way, the person returns *walking* to the teacher to have it lit again. The team to have every member carry the lit candle is the winner.

- 4 Let the children **reflect on the relay**. What was the most important thing about the race? Explain that being baptized is choosing Jesus' pathway for your life. You take his light and pass it on to others.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * A picture of a birthday party, or pictures of things associated with birthdays (1)
- * Basin, cruet, candle, oil (2)
- * One candle per relay team, matches (3)
- * Bible (5)
- * Drawing materials (6)
- * 🎵 *This Little Light of Mine* or *Walk in the Light* (7)
- * Paper and paints for banners (10)



GRADE 3

- 5 Tell the story of **Jesus' baptism** [Matthew 3:13-17; Luke3:21-22]

Jesus went down to the river and asked John to baptize him. John said: "You are the Son of God. You are greater than I am. You should baptize me." But Jesus wanted to do everything right. John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came out of the water, the Spirit of God came down from heaven like a dove. God said: "This is my Son. I am pleased with him."

- 6 Ask the children to **draw a picture** of Jesus' baptism and to include themselves in the picture as if they were there witnessing it.
- 7 **Sing:** *This Little Light of Mine* or *Walk in the Light*
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 Let the children bring **baptismal photos** to school to show others.
- 9 If it is possible, **attend a baptism** at your local parish as a class.
- 10 Children make **banners** with the words, "This is my Son. I am pleased with him."

LESSON 18: Preparing for Eucharist



AIM

To develop an understanding of the Eucharist as a celebration of God's love, and to develop skills to participate in it. (4.3.3, 5.1.4, 5.2.2, 5.4.1)

OUTCOME

Learners are able with assistance to prepare a Eucharistic celebration.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Balloons, streamers, pictures, ... (1)
- * "Eucharist" on a flashcard (3)
- * Table, flowers, candles, music, bread, grape juice (4)
- * Bible (6)(7)(11)(13)(15)
- * Eucharistic prayer (7) ⇨

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Prepare the classroom** in some way that suggests a celebration or a party. You could use balloons, streamers, pictures, ...
- 2 In **groups** the learners call to mind what they would need for a celebration, for example: good food, music, ...
- 3 The **Eucharist** is all about sharing a special meal. When the family of God gets together on a Sunday, we have a special meal together. That special meal reminds us of the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends. Jesus ate this meal the night before he gave his life for us on the cross. That was the first Eucharist. Make a flashcard of the word 'Eucharist' and put it up for the children to read.
- 4 **Illustrate** through the following actions what happens at the Eucharistic celebration, called the Mass. Make it clear that you are, in a sense, miming or playacting. Prepare a table as an altar. Let the children sit around as you tell them the following points. Jesus wants us also to share his meal. First we need a table. We call this table an altar. We put a tablecloth on. The meal Jesus shares with us is a special meal of love and thanksgiving so we decorate the table with flowers. To show that we are celebrating a special meal we use candles on our altar. The candles are also a sign of God's presence. At every special occasion we have joyful music. Let the children choose a song to sing or play music on a tape. The food for the meal is bread and wine. By sharing in this food which Jesus blesses, we share in his very life.
- 5 The children **repeat each line after you**:
 - ✘ *Alleluia (x 2)*
 - ✘ *I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.*
 - ✘ *Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia.*
 - ✘ *When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, till you come in glory.*
- 6 Now that the meal is prepared we look at all the special **people invited to this meal**. Thank you that we are all together for this holy and special meal. See Additional Activity 11 below [Luke 14: 12 – 15] Why is it important to go to church every Sunday? Let the children answer and then summarize by saying that Jesus invites us to share his love and to become closer to God's family.

- 7 **Read** [Luke 22: 13 – 20] or ‘The Lord’s Supper’ from any one of the Eucharistic Prayers in the Sunday Missal. An example is given below. ⇨
- 8 **Share the bread and grape juice** with the class and relax together.
- 9 **Prayer:**
Thank you for this special meal we shared. **RESPONSE:** Lord hear us.
Bless those who share your special meal. **RESPONSE:** Lord hear us.
Help to go to this holy meal more often. **RESPONSE:** Lord hear us.
We pray that this special meal that we shared will fill us with the love of Jesus.
RESPONSE: Lord hear us.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 10 Invite the local priest to share a **class Mass**.
- 11 **Who to invite** to a party. [Luke 14: 12 – 15]
- 12 **Sunday** is a holy day given to us to worship and rest. Tell the following story:
Early one Sunday morning, Mary went to the tomb. The stone was rolled away. There is no barrier between Jesus and us. He is with us. We can spend time with him when we go to Church on Sundays. Ever since that happy morning, Easter makes every Sunday shine.
- 13 **Scripture passage:** The living bread [John 6: 51 – 58]
- 14 **Special meals** – let the children write about what they like to eat. Their favourite meal from a restaurant by collecting a menu and highlighting their order.
- 15 Tell **the story of the Passover** which Jesus celebrated at the Last Supper with his disciples. before his own Passover from death to life. [Exodus 12]

MATERIALS

On the night before he died,
Jesus was having supper with his apostles.
He took bread from the table.
He gave you thanks and praise.
Then he broke the bread, gave it to his friends,
and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which will be given up for you.
When supper was ended,
Jesus took the cup that was filled with wine.
He thanked you, gave it to his friends, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all people
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

(from Eucharistic Prayer for Children I, ICEL)

LESSON 19: Celebrating Eucharist



AIM

To help the learners develop the skills needed to participate in the Eucharist (5.4.1)

OUTCOME

Learners participate actively in a prepared Eucharistic celebration or a simulated one.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Chalice (cup), Patten (plate), hosts (bread), wine (2)
- * Each child to bring a small gift to school (3)
- * Prepare for the reading (4)
- * Foods & other items for the Last Supper (9)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 In the **Eucharistic celebration**, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us in thanksgiving. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church (Jesus' new body which is present at all times and in all places), we participate in this offering. Our gifts of bread and wine are transformed by the Spirit into the Body and Blood of Jesus, given for us. Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus when the priest, repeating the very words of Jesus spoken at the Last Supper, blesses them [Luke 22:19-20]. The bread and wine are sacramental symbols. A sacrament is a sign which makes effective the very thing it points to. Thus in the Eucharist, God, in Jesus, nourishes us with his very own self.

Digest the above paragraph, and share with the children what you think appropriate and in a way that they will make sense of.
- 2 If possible, borrow a **chalice, a patten, some hosts and Mass wine** from the church to show the children. The Eucharistic meal is Jesus' gift of himself to us.
- 3 Ask each child to wrap a **small present** and bring it to school.
 - The children exchange presents. Ask the children how they feel.
 - They open the presents. Ask them again how they feel.
 - They say thank you. Ask them how they can say thank you to each other. They can write a letter, give a hug, or say 'Thank you'.
- 4 At the **Last Supper**, Jesus gave himself to us [Luke 22:13-23]. Read this passage or tell it in your own words to the class.
- 5 How can we **thank Jesus**? Can we do the same as we did to the children in our class just now when we exchanged presents? Write a list of ideas on the board - for example, say 'Thank you', write a letter, show his love to others.
- 6 Write **'Thank you' letters** to Jesus.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Prepare a **class Mass**.
- 8 At a school Mass, focus the children on the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** by asking them questions afterwards or commenting on the proceedings.

9 Act out the Last Supper as a class. Dress up. Eat the food Jesus would have had. Here is a list of foods eaten at the Jewish Passover meal and other things you will need.

- Grape juice and glasses
- Bitter herbs (parsley, lettuce, watercress)
- Haroseth (grated apples and cinnamon mixed)
- Matza (plural - matzot), one piece per child.
- Roast or cooked lamb, thinly sliced.
- Hard boiled eggs (1/2 per child)
- Bowls of salty water (one per table)
- Candles and flowers for each table