

Shed for Lent

Station One - Baptism

Story:

- the Baptism of Jesus

Focus:

- beginning a journey

Scene:

- font - open and filled with water, optional use of images in story (see reverse of this page - these images can be made A3)

Activities:

- touching water to reflect on baptism (Jesus' and/or ours)
- collecting a shell for their bag to remember this place and think of pilgrimage

Timings:

Gathering 5-10 mins

Story and Intro to activity 4 mins

Activity and moving to second station 5 mins

Things to bear in mind

- yours is the first Station
- you will have 30 children
- you will be at the font, near the front door
- you will need to settle the children in a possibly distracting location
- you need to think through the touching of the water and the picking up of the shell

Text for Story

You are about to go on a journey. We are going to pause here, right at the beginning, because there is something important that you need to take with you. It's really annoying if you set off on a journey and then you find that you don't have the stuff that you need for it. The most important thing you need for this journey is .. all of yourself, the whole of you. Thoughts. Feelings. Memories. Choices. Don't be only half here! Take a moment to engage.

We start by the water. Later we are going into the desert and water will be in short supply. This water will help you gather up your whole self for the journey, because water holds so many stories. It holds stories of the history of the whole world, and even my story and your story are all in this water ..

When God created the world, at first there was water everywhere.

When God brought his people out of Egypt, they came through the water.

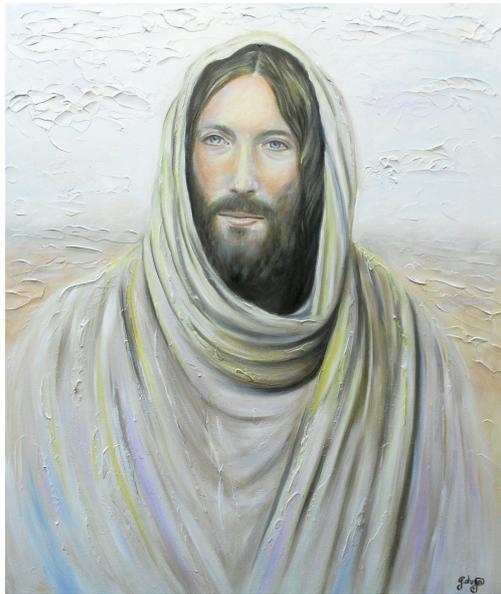
When Jesus began to do his work, the first place that he went, was to the water.



Jesus asked his cousin John to baptise him. John said something like - I baptise people because they are sorry for some things they have done and they want a new start. You don't need a new start - why do you want me to baptise you?

Jesus answered something like this: baptise me for the journey. It needs to be like this for now. The path that God has asked me to walk begins with my baptism. Please baptise me.

So John did. They waded together into the river, and John pushed Jesus down into the depths of the dark, swirling water. When John hauled Jesus back up into the light, it was as if heaven was torn open, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove, and hovered over Jesus. People heard a voice saying "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".



Introduction to Activity

Jesus began his journey here, at the water. We begin our journey here too. In a moment, you can come and carefully touch the water with your hand and then touch it to your head like this. This is a way of remembering all the stories of the water and being blessed by God. Today is not the day for us to be baptised, it's a day for remembering our baptism or for looking forward to it, or for thinking about it.

If you have already been baptised, when you were a baby or a younger child, then when you touch the water, you can remember your baptism. If you haven't been baptised, you can still touch the water, and think about baptism.

When you have touched the water, carefully and quietly, please collect one of these shells. Shells come from water, so it will remind you as we journey on. A shell is also an ancient Christian sign of being a pilgrim, which means being someone on a journey who hopes to come close to God in a new way.

Materials you need:

water in the font
a shell for each child

You could add:

images in the telling of the story (see above)

Preparation:

Learn story and make it your own

think through practicalities of moving 30 children past the font and on to the Poustinia room

Notes