

Big Question: Is it important to belong?

Key Enquiry Question: Why is belonging to God and the church family important to Christians?

Key Concept: CHURCH

Previous Learning: EYFS - creation, incarnation, salvation

Key Sources:

TEXTS

- The Bible (NIV or God News are preferable)
- The Lion Storyteller Bible 'Jesus and the Children'

ARTEFACTS

- A christening shawl or baby blanket
- A christening candle
- A christening card
- A child's Bible
- A child's prayer book

ONLINE

- BBC Pathways of Belief A Christian Christening Part 2/3 and 3/3
- BBC Pathways of Belief A Christian Christening Story

Be prepared!

- Engage/ Enquire - invite the children to bring in any items or photos from their own christenings or naming ceremonies.
- In Explore 1, you will need a christening shawl or baby blanket.
- In Explore 3, you need a simple snack.

Trips, Visits and Visitors

- Explore 2 is an opportunity to visit the local church and invite the vicar to lead a christening service for a doll. Book ahead!
- Evaluate - you may require parent helpers for the 'carousel' activity.

Vocabulary Builder:

Words they may know:

Christian God Jesus prayer

Church believe belong

New words to introduce:

christening font godparents

naming ceremonies

Key Image:



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By the end of this unit:

Pupils will understand that Christians believe a christening welcomes a person into the Church family.

See EVALUATE section of this unit. Further information is also available in the KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER and ASSESSMENT GRID.

Teacher Subject Knowledge

KEY CHRISTIAN UNDERPINNING CONCEPT

INCARNATION

is the traditional Christian belief that God came into the world in human flesh as the person of Jesus Christ.



Incarnation is about God's Son becoming 'one of us', coming as a tiny vulnerable baby, God in human form.

God with us – Emmanuel

(The Bible: Matthew 1 v.23; Hebrews 4 v.15-16; John 11 v.27)

Jesus is 'God with skin on'.

"The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory" (John 1 v.14)

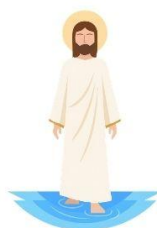
Because Jesus came and shared human life; he knows the trials and joys of being human. The Bible stresses that Jesus got tired, hungry and even wept; he was fully human, and fully God. When Jesus taught his followers, he was able to relate to, or identify with, them.



Jesus reveals what God is like, Christians believe in one God but understand God in three ways (Trinity): God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus is God the Son.

Although God is invisible, in Jesus humans are able to catch a glimpse of what God is like. He was a visual aid to knowing God.

In his parables (stories with meanings) Jesus shared, lots of images of what God is like and some of his images challenged what people had thought previously. Jesus came to show not only what God is like but what humans should be like, real humans as God intended.



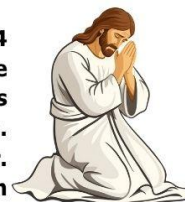
The disciples got to know Jesus as a human but they also caught glimpses of the 'God man' e.g. when he healed people, calmed a storm, etc. In John's gospel, Jesus said he was 'sent' by the Father. He came with the authority of God, like a company 'rep', to speak on God's behalf.



Christians do not believe Jesus was just a good man, healer, teacher or prophet but fully human and fully God.

Jesus said he came to give his life as a 'ransom for many' (Mark 10 v.45). Despite his own innocence, Jesus identified himself with humanity and Christians say Jesus 'paid the price' for sin through his death on the cross. The cross thus became, and remained, a key symbol of forgiveness and sacrifice.

The disciples watched Jesus pray and asked him to teach them to pray (Luke 11 v.2-4 – the 'Lord's Prayer'). Jesus reveals God as 'personal', not just a force in the universe but someone with whom a relationship is possible. He himself prayed to God as 'Father' (Abba or Daddy), showing prayer as a possible and purposeful conversation. 'God is with us', always on the 'other end of the line', ready to listen and answer. Prayer happens because there is someone there to hear, and worship occurs when God is recognised as immensely great, powerful and loving – worthy of praise.



CHURCH

The Christian God is 'personal', not an impersonal force in the universe.

The Trinity

Christians talk about God as Trinity, three persons in one, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; The Christian God is full of relationships, love and belonging.



Christians believe God created humanity in his image, to be like him.

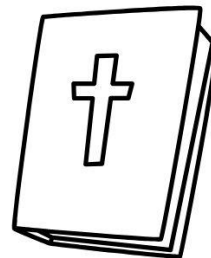
Early Christian doctrine spoke of humans being created 'to glorify God and enjoy him forever.' Humans are not random beings in a vast universe but created, loved and wanted. They belong not just to themselves but to God their creator and he longs to welcome them back to his family, to be adopted into God, enfolded in God's love and to become the person God intended them to be.



The Christian CHURCH (not a building but people) is like a big family who have found their way back to God, or more rightly have been found by him.

In the Bible, God says of people:

**"I have called you by name; you are mine."
(Isaiah 43 v.1)**



BAPTISM

In BAPTISM, Christians welcome others into God's family. The 'belonging' involved in a baptism is firstly about belonging to God and secondly about belonging to the church.



Infant baptism or 'christening' is not a naming ceremony even though a child's name is announced. The church family welcomes the child and prayers are said. Water is poured on their head and the sign of the cross drawn. Usually godparents are chosen who promise to spiritually support the baby as they grow.

Some branches of the church such as Baptists and Pentecostals, only baptise adults who choose to follow Jesus for themselves. The Church of England baptises both babies and adults.

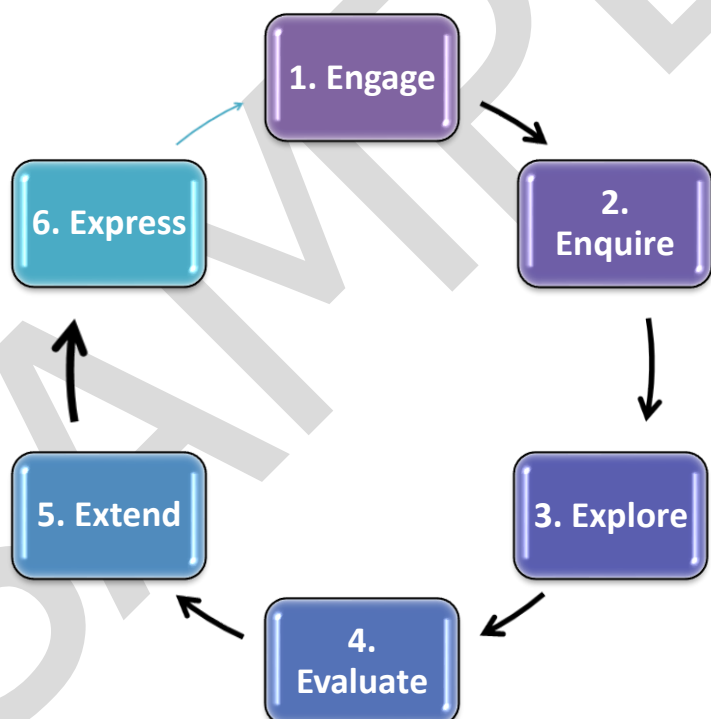


God promises to be with the newly baptised, helping them through the power of the Holy Spirit to grow more like Jesus. And with the rest of the Church, they become his 'hands and feet' on earth, embodying (incarnating / putting flesh on) God's love for others.

The welcome given in church should mirror God's own welcome as he claims people for his own.

	Substantive Knowledge	Disciplinary Skills	Personal reflection
Theology	Know that: - Christians are followers of Jesus. - Their holy book is the Bible. - Their typical place of worship is a church. - The Bible describes the 'Church' as a group of people following Jesus.	Be able to: Re-tell the story of Jesus welcoming the little children in Matthew 19 vs 13-15.	Wonder about: - What influences my personal worldview. - What I think about the Christian concept of belonging.
Human and Social Sciences	Know that: - Christening is an important rite of passage for some Christians. - Christening can help followers feel that they belong to God and the church community.	Be able to: - Examine a christening shawl and talk about what it might mean to a Christian. - Talk about how the gifts given at a christening might help the child to grow up knowing Jesus.	Wonder about: - Things that have happened in my life that make me feel like I belong. - If I had a naming ceremony and what this was like.
Philosophy	Know that: The idea of 'church' can mean both a building and a group of people.	Be able to: - Listen respectfully to the views of others and notice different opinions and ideas exist. - Have a go at sharing an opinion that it not your own through roleplay.	Wonder about: - Why my family chose my naming ceremony if I had one. - Why my family chose my name.

Each Emmanuel Project unit follows an Enquiry Cycle approach to develop children's learning.



EXPLORE splits into three, to allow for the three different disciplines to be taught within Balanced RE (Theology, Human/Social Sciences and Philosophy). These 3 EXPLORE sections are the most important to teach.

Suggested learning journey over six sessions. Check your local Syllabus for time requirements for R.E. For Church of England schools, the Statement of Entitlement says 5-10% of curriculum time.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Engage	Explore 1	Explore 2	Explore 3	Evaluate	Express
Enquire				Extend	

Key Enquiry Question: Why is belonging to God and the church family important to Christians?

ENGAGE (30 mins)

with the concept of 'belonging' to a church family

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCAB

Christian
church
cross

GENERAL VOCAB

belong

RESOURCES

Writing or drawing
materials

Teacher Note: Adapt this activity as relevant for your children's needs.

Settling in:

Look at the definition of 'belong'. You are part of a group. You are liked just as you are. You are cared for and included.

Play 'belonging beans' (see slide). For each one, teach an action for the 'belonging beans' to do.

To belong means:

- **GROUP BEAN** - You are part of a group (hold hands in small circles of 3/4 children)
- **AWESOME BEAN** - You are liked just as you are (find a partner and give a thumbs up)
- **ONE OF US BEAN** - You are cared for and included (give someone a hug or high 5)

Places people might belong:

The discussions around school and home could be delivered as a 'drawing' exercise in books/paper or verbal with an adult scribing comments for scrapbooks.

1) Belonging in our school family

How might someone know that you belong to this school? (uniform, where you live, the way you act, the songs you know, the friends you have etc.)

I wonder, do you still belong to your school when you are at home?

2) Belonging in our home family

How might someone know that you belong in your family? (name, appearance, where you live, football team you support, family events etc.)

Be sensitive here around children with complex home situations e.g. Looked After Children and adapt as necessary.

Introduce T.J. The children might remember him from RE work in EYFS. T.J. is a Christian. Do the Christianity High Five to check for knowledge (see slide).

3) Belonging in a faith community

T.J. commented 'My vicar said to me "T.J. I'm so glad you and your family have chosen to belong to this church"'. The vicar shows T.J. a picture of a church building made up of people (see slide) to explain. If time, children could make house shapes in groups of 5/6 people. Look at the picture together and wonder what it means.

ENQUIRE (30 mins)

into christening as a ceremony of belonging to God and the Church

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCAB

naming ceremony
church
Christian
christening
font
godparents

GENERAL VOCAB

promises

RESOURCES

Appendix 2 –
T.J.'s christening
invitation

Appendix 3 –
Ayomide's
christening in
Lagos, Nigeria.

Appendix 4- shell
outlines

T.J.'s christening
gifts or
Appendix 5 images
of gifts from T.J.'s
christening to
enquire about

Online Video Search:

BBC Pathways of
Belief A Christian
Christening part
2/3

What special events sometimes happen when a baby is born?

Ask the children to share any stories about or show artefacts from their own christenings or naming ceremonies if they had one.

This could make a lovely class display.

For Christians, a christening is a special event that usually happens at church where a baby is welcomed into God's family. T.J. was christened as a baby, and this was a special day for his family. Look at the invitation found in his memory box on the slide or print Appendix 2.

What happens at a christening?

Watch the online video: BBC Pathways of Belief A Christian Christening part 2/3 'Promises made by the font'. Invite the children to ask questions about this video clip, using the question starter words on the slide to help. They could write these down or have them scribed by an adult – use the shell shapes in Appendix 3.

Christenings in the Global church

Christians from all over the world have their babies christened.

Ayomide (*I-o-mid-ee*) lives in Suffolk, England. He was born in Nigeria (see slide for map of Africa) and was christened there. His mum told him about his christening (see slide for images).

Mum said 'Lots of friends and family gathered in the Chapel of the Healing Cross next to the hospital in Lagos. The priest then carried you to the front of the chapel. There was a bowl of water on a stand. The priest poured water onto your head and made the sign of the cross on it. You kept wriggling about! We sung another worship song, then your godparents prayed for you and us as your parents. It was a very special day where you were welcomed into God's family.'

What presents might be given at a christening and why?

T.J. has brought in a selection of gifts from his own Christening for you to look at. Unpack these from a 'memory box' one by one.

You could show:

- a Bible or storybook bible
- a christening card signed by his auntie
- a Christening candle
- a picture of Jesus welcoming the children

Pass these round one by one and ask the children to think/pair/share about what they are and why Christians might want to give them.

You could use the illustrations in Appendix 5 as a stimulus for writing questions around if you cannot source the items.

EXPLORE 1: Theology (60 mins)

Jesus' own example of 'welcome' in a story from the Bible Narrative

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCAB

Bible
Old Testament
New Testament

GENERAL VOCAB

welcome

RESOURCES

Christening shawl
or baby blanket

The Lion
Storyteller Bible
'Jesus and the
Children'

ONLINE

BBC Pathways of
Belief A Christian
christening story

Online video
engine search:
Saddleback Kids
'Jesus and the
Children'

Teacher Note: Ensure that children are invited to take part in re-enactments only if they wish to.

Settling in: The mystery of the missing shawl

Show the children a real christening shawl if you have one or use a baby blanket. Wrap a volunteer up in the shawl – how do they feel? Watch the online video BBC Pathways of Belief A Christian Christening Story (cartoon) and talk about what they discover about the shawl. A shawl/ blanket is a practical way we can wrap someone up in a 'welcome hug' – just like the kittens, and it is a bit like the welcome babies are given in church.

Explore the idea of 'welcome' in a Bible story

High 5 Christianity, focusing on the ring finger – the special book. Show the class a Bible (not a story book version). The Bible is in two parts, the Old Testament and New Testament. Today's story is from the New Testament, as it is a story involving Jesus.

Explore the story of Jesus welcoming the children through drama

Read the story of 'Jesus and the Children' from Matthew 19 v.13-15. You could also watch the online video: Saddleback Kids Jesus and the Children. The Lion Storyteller Bible has a version which is easy to turn into a group performance. Read through once, then involve the children in the second telling.

Children could act out different characters - Jesus, people wanting to be healed, mums and dads, children, Jesus's friends.

Label children or make simple 'costumes' using their school jumpers (round shoulders, over heads, no jumpers on etc.) Prompt the children with dialogue from the story to speak out.

Sit the child who is representing Jesus on a chair. Have a group of children stand in front of him creating a wall. Stand some other pupils behind this wall as 'the little children' in the story. Interview them – 'How do you feel right now?'. Then have Jesus make a path through the wall of people and invite the little children to the front. How have their feelings changed?

Sixty-second silent stare at the image 'Jesus and the Children' by Michael D O'Brien. I wonder, what does Jesus want these children to know, what does he want the adults to know? Record responses as appropriate.

Preparation

In the next session we suggest visiting a local church or having a visitor come in to show what happens at a christening service to welcome babies into the church family. (See next page for additional guidance on this activity)

Additional Notes on a visit to the local church:

For church schools

- Using your church school links, contact a local vicar who may be able to accommodate a visit or visit you in school.

For community schools

- Contact your local Church of England Church.
AChurchNearYou.com | [The Church of England](http://TheChurchofEngland.org)
- There may be several in the area. If you can find one in close walking distance, this is ideal. If not, then you may be able to find a vicar who would be willing to visit the school for this activity.

Explaining the purpose of the activity to a local vicar

- This activity fits in the Emmanuel Project KS1 Unit which focuses on the concepts of 'church' and 'belonging'.
- We would like the children to walk through a simplified christening service – with a focus on phrases to do with 'welcome' and 'belonging'.
- The children will bring a baby doll with them to demonstrate the steps of the christening. The children will choose a name for the doll.
- Volunteer children can choose to play the part of the parents, the godparents and the church family, but some children might choose just to observe.
- Please use the language 'christening' rather than 'infant christening' as this is the term we are using with the children.
- Show them a copy of Appendix 7- features the children will be looking out for in the service.

Preparing the children

- Choose volunteers to play; the parents, the godparents (*you may wish to check that parents consent to this roleplay activity*)
- Choose names for the baby – first and middle names.
- Talk through expectations for being in a church building – focus on being calm and respectful.

If you cannot arrange a visit to a church or from a vicar, you can use the BBC videos for a virtual classroom experience.

BBC Two - Pathways of Belief, Places of Worship - Christianity, A Christian christening (pt 1/3) - what is a christening?

BBC Two - Pathways of Belief, Places of Worship - Christianity, A Christian christening (pt 2/3) - promises made by the font

BBC Two - Pathways of Belief, Places of Worship - Christianity, A Christian christening (pt 3/3) - family and celebration

EXPLORE 2: Human and Social Sciences (60 mins)

Exploring christening as a way of belonging in a church community.

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCAB

Church
Christian
christening
godparents

Teacher Note: If you can't visit a church in person, use the step-by-step script in Appendix 6 to work through a christening service in the classroom.

It is very important that children understand that this is not a real christening and they do not have to take part. This is a way for us to understand what this special service means for Christians.

GENERAL VOCAB

welcome
belong
promises

See guidance on page 10 for BBC video clips to support this activity.

The visit to the church

Remind children about expectations in the church building.
Take photographs and record children's responses during the visit.
Encourage the children to look for the words 'belong' and 'welcome'.

RESOURCES

See Appendix 6 for the 'Christening in the Classroom' script with resource list

You could use the 'checklist' sheet in Appendix 7 if your children need a focus for the visit.

Baby doll
Doll pram (optional)

See Appendix 7 for the church visit checklist

Responding to the visit

In conversation on return ask the children:

What part of the christening did you like best?
What will you remember about the visit?
What might T.J. have said about our visit today?
Are there any new questions you want to ask now?

Record responses as fitting for your children.

EXPLORE 3: Philosophy (60 mins)

how belonging to the church family helps in Christian living

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCAB

christening
Church
belong

RESOURCES

Some party food
as appropriate for
your children

Blindfolds for half
the class

Small obstacles
e.g. cones

Cotton thread and
a rope

Appendix 8-
T.J.'s christening
book

Appendix 9 –
Christian people
who might help
children on their
journey of faith

ONLINE

BBC Pathways of
Belief A Christian
Christening family
and celebration
part 3/3

Settling in: Show a few photos from last session. Ask the children to share what they remember about 'welcome' and 'belonging'.

What happens after a christening service?

Watch BBC Pathways of Belief A Christian Christening family and celebration part 3/3. How did the family celebrate the christening?

T.J. has found something else in his 'memory box'. It is a book that was passed round at the party after his christening for people to write in. Read some of the comments together from the slide/ print Appendix 8 for children to examine.

Bring out the baby doll that was christened last session and wrap it in its shawl. Share some party food together, passing the baby doll around to hold as you do. Encourage the children to say something kind or encouraging to the baby when it is their turn to hold it, like the boy in the video does for his baby brother and T.J.'s family did for him.

Philosophy Exercise – Belonging in a community that guides you

You could go outside for this exercise. Imagine you have landed on a foggy island. You can only see a little way ahead of you. You need to get to the other side, but you need help. Get the children in pairs and blindfold one/ close eyes. You could add small obstacles such as cones if you wish. Have one child verbally guide the other across a simple course, then swap.

Could you have done that without any help? Why is having other people in our lives sometimes helpful? How might Christians guide each other? How might T.J.'s church guide him?

Philosophy Exercise – Vote with your feet

Put posters of different people around the room (see Appendix 9). Briefly explain who these people are. Go through T.J.'s questions (see slide) and ask the children to stand near the person they might go to for help and guidance. Can they say why? Remind the children that there is not one 'right' answer.

Philosophy Exercise – The analogy of the thread and the rope

Show a cotton thread and a rope. On its own a thread is quite weak. Demonstrate this by breaking it. However, if many threads are woven and twisted together, you can form a strong rope. This is a bit like belonging in a group of people, like T.J. belongs to his church family. Look again at the quote from the christening service 'God promises to be with you, to be your guide in life as you take up the journey of faith ... **The family of God welcomes you and helps you in that journey.**'

EVALUATE children's learning (30 mins)

Resources for EVALUATE:

Assessment grids
are on the
Emmanuel Project
website.

IDEAS FOR EFFECTIVE EVALUATION:

- Use the creative output of the 'EXPRESS' section as a tool for reflection. Show the items/ photographs/ recordings of the activity and ask children to talk about it using scaffolds such as question starters, key vocab or the hexagons.
- Knowledge Check Quiz – multiple choice to record evidence of substantive knowledge.
- 10-minute ways of knowing carousel. Use the Solo Taxonomy/ images/ artefacts from the learning/ solo-taxonomy hexagons placed on tables to stimulate talking in these focused areas:
 1. THEOLOGY – re-tell the story of Jesus welcoming the children in a new way – it could be a drawing or acting it out independently.
 2. HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCES- Using simple props, invite (*not force*) children to re-tell the steps of the christening service.
 3. PHILOSOPHY- Using a piece of thread and a rope, talk about how belonging with others can make us stronger.

EXTEND A chance to respond to the big question (15 mins)

Resources for EXTEND:

Cotton thread

Rope

Big Question: Is it important to belong?

Look at the Big Question together.

If we don't belong anywhere, what problems might we have?

Why is it important to have a family and a community around us?

Revisit the idea of a strand of cotton thread being snapped easily on its own, but twisted together with many others, we get a strong rope. Children could try breaking a piece of thread.

Pass a piece of rope around and ask the children to tug on both ends of it to show how incredibly strong a rope can be, even though each thread is small and weak alone.

Reflect together – how might this analogy of the thread and the rope help T.J. talk about why belonging to church is important for him as a Christian?

EXPRESS your RE learning so it can be shared with others (60 mins)

RESOURCES

Continuous provision resources for a christening role play

Or

Appendix 10
Carousel of activities to explore the Christening service

Coloured paper, pencils and scissors

Option 1

Create a space in the classroom where the children can freely role-play the christening Service. Leave out items such as:

- Flowers to decorate the church
- Baby dolls
- Blankets
- A large shell to scoop the water
- A bowl of water/ cardboard box 'font'
- A flag to wave that says, 'we welcome you!'
- A vicar's robe (dressing gown etc.)
- The Christening candle
- Infant Bible
- Wrapping paper to make gifts
- Christening cards to be drawn/ coloured/ written on

Option 2

Use the carousel of activities in Appendix 10.

Invite in several parent helpers and spend time exploring the different aspects of the christening service.

Ensure that this is clearly invitational, exploring what Christians believe about christening. Check with any parents who may wish to give consent e.g. those from different faith backgrounds.

APPENDIX OF RESOURCES

Appendix 1: Christianity High 5

Appendix 2: T.J.'s christening invitation from his memory box

Appendix 3: Ayomide's christening in Lagos, Nigeria

Appendix 4: Shell outlines for 'enquire' questions

Appendix 5: Images of gifts from T.J.'s christening to enquire about

Appendix 6: Step-by-step christening script

Appendix 7: Visit to the church check sheet

Appendix 8: T.J.'s christening party memory book

Appendix 9: Christian people who might help children on their journey of faith

Appendix 10: Carousel of 4 'reflective stations' exploring christening

Acknowledgements:

This unit was originally devised by Kim Smith and Jenny Roberts and revised by Helen Matter, Helen Peats, Emily Bacon and further revised in 2026 by Lisa Death and Sophie Lambert, edited by Victoria Bush.

Appendix 1 – Christianity High 5



Appendix 2: T.J.'s Christening Invitation



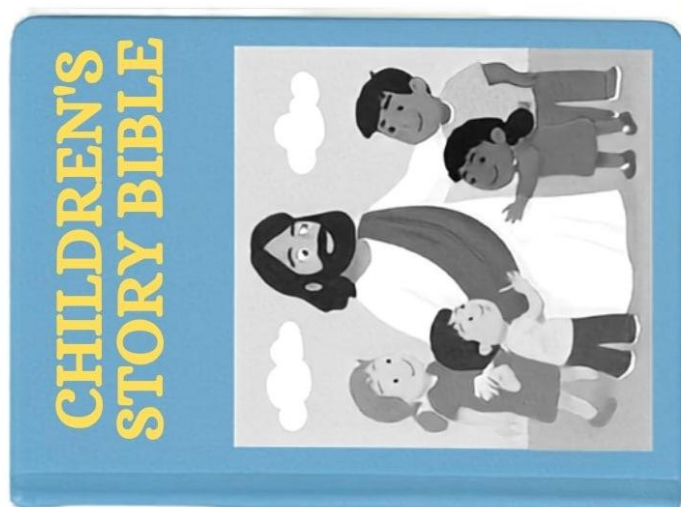
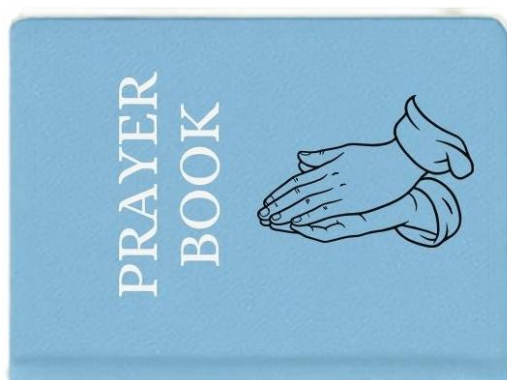
Appendix 3: Ayomide's christening in Lagos, Nigeria



Appendix 4: Shell outlines for recording 'enquire' questions



Appendix 5: T.J.'s Christening Gifts



Appendix 6: Step-by-step christening service

Role-play items • Small bowl • Jug of water • Baby doll • Small towel • Tea light or LED candle • Christening cards • Name labels or badges • Snack to share (optional)	Classroom Setup • Calm music • Seating arranged facing the 'font'
<u>Christening in the classroom script</u> Step 1: Arriving at Church Teacher says: "Imagine we are walking into a church. We can see the font – this is a special raised-up bowl for water. This is where the christening happens." <i>Place the bowl carefully on a table and add water.</i> Step 2: Welcome The vicar might say something like, "We are here for a special day. Today we welcome a baby into the family of the church. God welcomes this child, and we welcome them too." <i>Invite children to say together: "We welcome you."</i> Step 3: Listening and Praying The vicar might then say "In church, people sing and pray together and listen to stories about Jesus. Jesus welcomed children and showed people how to love God and others." Step 4: Preparing the Water <i>Pour water into the bowl.</i> Water reminds Christians of new beginnings and being made clean. <i>Invite one child to help pour water.</i>	

Step 5: Parents and godparents Make Promises

At a christening, parents and godparents make promises. They promise to help the baby learn about God, Jesus and how to love others. I wonder, how could grown-ups help a child learn about loving others?

Step 6: The Sign of the Cross

Gently trace a cross on the doll's forehead.

The vicar makes a cross on the baby's forehead, like an invisible badge. The cross shows the baby belongs to God and to the church family. *Optional- invite children to trace a cross on their hand with water if they wish to.*

Step 7: Christening with Water

Sprinkle or pour a few drops of water onto the doll's head.

The vicar would then say, "I christen you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Christians believe these are the names of God. 'The Son' means Jesus.

Step 8: The Christening Candle

Hold up and 'light' the candle.

A christening candle is lit to remind Christians that they are called to be a light in the world – to be kind, loving and helpful.

Step 9: Welcome by Everyone

Sometimes the baby is walked round the church, and everyone claps to welcome them. If you want to join in, we could do this and then say together, "We welcome you."

Step 10: Celebration

After a christening, there is usually a celebration with family and friends. The baby might receive special gifts to help them learn about Jesus as they grow.

You could unwrap gifts here such as christening card and Bibles, candles, or crosses. You could share a snack and have a 'mini party'.

Reflecting on the service

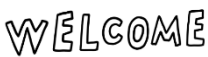
What part of the christening did you like best?

What does belonging mean?

How can we help people feel welcome?

Appendix 7: Visit to the church check sheet

Name.....

<i>Features of the Christening service</i>	<i>Symbols</i>	<i>Tick off as you go!</i>
Welcome		
Promises The vicar says: "...People of God will you welcome this child and uphold them in their new life in Christ?" Everyone says: "...With the help of God, we will."		
The sign of the cross The vicar will say: "...Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of the cross."		
The water The vicar says: "...I christen you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."		
Prayers and another welcome	 	
A candle The vicar says: "...Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God."		
My thoughts and questions		

Appendix 8 – T.J.'s christening party memory book

**May the Lord bless you
and keep you little T.J.
It was a joy to welcome
you into the church
family today.**

Reverend Jay

**Welcome to church T.J.
I hope you like your Bible
I chose for you!**

Cousin Lily xxx

**I promise to be there
for you as you grow up
to guide you where I can.**

**Love from your
godmother Kelly**

**T.J. we are so blessed to
have you in our family. We
pray that you grow up
knowing that God loves
you even more than we do!**

Love Mum

Appendix 9 – Christian people who might help children on their journey of faith



Reverend Jay



Cousin Lily



Kelly - godmother



Mum

Appendix 10: Carousel of 4 'reflective christening stations'

Create reflective stations' using some bright material, the words from the Church of England Christening service and these other items:		An adult sits at each station to greet each small group of children. Use the questions and brief activities to explore the words from the christening service. Each 'station' should last about 5-6 minutes. Ideally children should take away something from each station.
'In christening these children begin their journey in faith ... will you help them?'	- Letters to spell 'promise' - Promises on large card footprints/ pencils / footprints to write on - A 'road' of paper or material for footprints	What is a promise? Look at the christening words. Parents and godparents make promises at a christening to help their child learn about Jesus and follow him – a journey of faith. Display the promises below – written on footprints. What promise could a Christian write for T.J. on a footprint? Place footprints on 'road'. I promise to pray for T.J. I will be a good example. I will be T.J.'s friend. I will help T.J. come to church. I will teach T.J. about God and how to follow Jesus.
'Jesus claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.'	- School badge / other badges / name labels - Card badges / labels / crayons - Doll / bowl of water / towel /plastic sheet	Do you have a school badge? Is your sweatshirt named? These things show you 'belong' or what belongs to you. What other badges show we belong? Make a badge with your name / symbol. Look at the christening words. The vicar signs the baby with a cross on the forehead as an invisible badge, showing the child belongs to the church family. Why is it a cross? A cross is a way of saying you belong to Jesus Christ and to God's family.
'I christen you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'	- Bowl of washing up / tea towel / plastic sheet - Bowl / jug of water / doll - Blue card water drop shapes / pencils	Do some washing up! What bad things spoil our world? What would you like to wash away? In christening, a little water is poured on the baby's head. Demonstrate with a doll and read the christening words. The water is a symbol of washing away sins -things we don't do right. Christians know they are not perfect but believe God always give them a chance to start again. Make a hanging mobile of large water drops showing bad things which spoil the world / us and which you would like to wash away.
'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.'	- Torch / fairy lights / desk lamp / Christening candle / electric tea lights - Card flames / pens - Song - 'Let my little light'	Look at different lights e.g. torches. How do they help us? Display a christening candle / picture of one. Read the christening words. Christians are called to be lights in the world, to do good things and help others find God. Every time people do something good it is like adding 'light' to the world. For Christians it shows what God really wants the world and its people to be like. Light an electric tea-light for each child. Listen to/ invite to sing 'Let my little light shine'. What good things could you do to add 'light' to the world? Write ideas on a card candle flame.