

Journey 2

Belonging: Jesus is baptised

Preamble

This is the second of five assemblies on journeys.

The stimulus for this assembly is on the journey of Jesus to the Jordan to be baptised,

The assembly explores the theme of belonging to a community.

Preparation

Collect a variety of wristbands

Display pictures and prepare questions

Obtain copy of Fischy Music song: "Make a Difference" from "I Wonder Why" album

.

Ken Coulter & Jen Robertson: March 2008.

Rationale	The stimulus for this assembly is the story of the baptism of Jesus. In Christianity baptism is an outward sign of what Christians believe – it shows that Christians belong to their faith group. The issue of belonging will be explored in the assembly, and the pupils will consider how outward signs of belief might effect how we behave
Title	Belonging
Aims	To help pupils reflect on belonging and how outward signs of belief might effect how we treat others in our community
Stage	P 1 - 7
Objectives	1] At the end of this pupils will have experienced sense of values and challenge. 2] Pupils will be able explain what baptism means for Christians, and describe how outward signs of various beliefs might effect our behaviour and treatment of others.
Link with ACfE	Responsible citizens: respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in social and cultural life
Is this part of a series	Second of Five
Introduction	Pictures round the walls
Stimulus/ stimuli	Christian story from Matthew and Luke's gospels about the baptism of Jesus. Matthew chapter 3. Luke 3: 1- 20
Guided Reflection	Fischy Music song "Make a Difference" and comment
Response & Possible Next Steps	Challenge to pupils to think about and act on how we can do good.
Evaluation (a)	Discussion with pupils
Evaluation (b)	RO team discussion
Evaluation (c)	Observation of pupils during the event

Introduction

- 1] Have a variety of coloured wristbands handed out to some pupils as they come into the assembly.
- 2] Have pictures round the walls of different people who obviously belong to a certain groups e.g.:
 - Scotland fans,
 - Welsh rugby player,
 - Brownie,
 - Scout,
 - Masai woman,
 - American, etc.

Ask for volunteers (same number as pictures) who belong to different groups e.g. someone who belongs to Primary school; someone who belongs to P3; someone who belongs to a judo club; etc.

Ask each of them to go and find a picture, with P1-3's just ask them to pick anyone, with the P4-7's give them each a written clue to find the right photo. Once they return to the front ask them to say what or where their person belongs to....how did they know? Explain that we know what these people belong to because of what they look like, - something on the outside.

We are now going to hear a story about something that happened to Jesus that showed what kind of group he belonged to.

The Story

Tell the story, ask pupils to make noises when different people are mentioned.

John: Cheer.

Jesus: Yeees!

People who have done wrong things: shame

Jesus had a big cousin called John. John had gone really weird. He now lived in the desert away from people spending a lot of time talking to God. He wore clothes made of camel hair and he ate big insects called locusts along with honey.

But many people came out of the city to listen to John talking about God. Some parts of the desert were as high as Ben Nevis. Not very much grew there. People would leave their work and come and listen to John. This would cost them time and money but they believed what John was saying was very important. Sometimes they would have to walk for a whole day or more and camp out in the desert.

Not everybody liked John. He told the religious bullies they were wrong and that they had to live differently. He also told people if they had lots of food, they should share it with people who were hungry. He told workers that they should only take money that was due to them and always give the proper change. He told soldiers not to tell lies about innocent people.

Lots of people heard what he said and knew they had done wrong and bad things in their lives. With John's help they said sorry to God. When they did this then John washed them in the River Jordan. This was a sign that that they wanted to be clean

from all the bad deeds they had done. This washing in the river is given a special name and is called baptism. John was nicknamed John the Baptist.

One day Jesus went to visit his cousin. He stopped his work working on buildings, put his tools in the house and started walking. He walked for three days and sleeping outside for three nights. There were many wild animals and many muggers. The road was dangerous. The journey was dangerous but Jesus was determined to hear what his cousin was saying.

Everyone was waiting for a very special messenger from God. He had been promised for many hundreds of years. Some had started to say John was this person. When John heard them saying this He said "NO!" "I am not the one we're all waiting for".

The Jesus arrived at the river Jordan where John was preaching. John said, "I need to be baptised by you" but Jesus said "no this is the right thing to do."

As Jesus was washed in the river, a dove came from heaven and a voice said "This is my son, I'm really proud of him"

Guided reflection

Play and sing: "Make a Difference" by Fischy music. Track 4 on "I Wonder Why Album"

Discuss with pupils how when people wear different clothes it might make us like or dislike them. Being different is not just about what we wear but what we do.

John knew people belonged to groups. People in these groups bullied others and were nasty to each other. They were like gangs. The religious bullies made life difficult for everyone who was not in their gang and told them they were bad. The workers took money from people who were not in their gang. The soldiers told lies about anyone who wasn't a soldier.

John said God wanted to people to be part of a different kind of gang. A gang which did not bully others but helped others. The sign of being in this gang was being baptised or washed in the River Jordan and then helping people. Jesus, his cousin said he wanted to be part of this John's new gang.

We live in a big gang in the school. Some of us part of other gangs. Because we are who we are we want to be treated fairly and helped if we're having problems. We can care for each other that belongs to this school, to our club, our church, our group but the really important thing is to care for others. We can make a difference in this world, this school, this town by caring for people who are not in our gang our group and not just caring for people who look like us or believe the same things etc.

Response and Possible Next Steps

At this point ask the pupils to come up to the front if they were given a wrist band. Explain what each means and talk about how it's easy to wear these or even to say "yes, I believe that" but difficult to do it each day give examples how we can "do good"