

Year Group 5	Worldview: Christianity
Strand:	Community and Identity
Key Question:	How do rites of passage shape the lives of different Christians?
Focus of study:	The symbolism of Baptism, particularly denominational differences between: Baptist, Anglican and Orthodox
Background information for teachers:	
<p>How do Christians celebrate big life events?</p> <p>Life is full of significant moments that mark a new beginning and often change people or symbolise a change. Whatever people's beliefs are, they usually celebrate the biggest moments in life's journey. These celebrations are called 'rites of passage'. For Christians, they include birth, deciding to become a Christian, first communion, getting married and death. The suggested activities in this unit are focused on baptism, but similar activities could be devised to look at some of the other rites of passage. Information about them is included here for those who wish to expand the topic.</p> <p>Baptism</p> <p>A sacrament is a ceremony through which Christians believe they receive God's grace or are brought closer to God. Therefore, a sacrament is something that people can engage in with their senses but that has a deeper meaning too. For Protestants, baptism and the Eucharist are sacraments. All four of the gospels mention Jesus carrying out both of these acts.</p> <p>Many Christians believe that baptism is important because Jesus was baptised, and after his resurrection he told his disciples that they should be baptised too.</p> <p>No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. — John 3:5</p> <p>The practice of baptism emerged from Jewish ritualistic practices during the Second Temple Period, out of which figures such as John the Baptist emerged. For example, various texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) corpus at Qumran describe ritual practices involving washing, bathing, sprinkling, and immersing. John the Baptist used baptism to symbolise the forgiveness of sins. It was John who baptised Jesus. When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan: the voice of God was heard, and the Holy Spirit was represented by a dove. Baptism soon emerged as a sign of people becoming a Christian. Phillip baptises the Ethiopian official in a pool by the road (Acts 8: 26ff), Peter baptises Cornelius (Acts 10) and all of his family. Many Christians believe that baptising cleanses people from their sin.</p> <p>Baptism is practised by nearly all Christian denominations as it is seen as an instruction from God and a way of following Jesus' example. However, the denominations practise baptism in different ways.</p> <p>INFANT BAPTISM</p> <p>Some Christians believe baptism makes a Christian a member of God's family. In many denominations babies are baptised, and this is known as infant baptism. For Orthodox Christians, infant baptism involves total immersion. However, other denominations make the sign of the cross on the baby's head using oil and use holy water on the forehead.</p> <p>Jesus' instructions were to "baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit", so these words are said during a baptism. — Matthew 28:19</p> <p>There are other elements to a baptism service, including promises made by godparents on behalf to the child to reject evil. In addition, at the end of the ceremony the priest gives a lit candle to the child's guardians to keep for the child, which symbolises receiving the light of Christ.</p> <p>Many people who don't believe that a choice to become a Christian can be made on behalf of a child, hold a thanksgiving service instead of baptism. Some denominations are happy to offer both thanksgiving and infant baptism.</p> <p>BELIEVERS' BAPTISM</p>	

Baptists and Pentecostals, among others, believe baptism should only occur once somebody is an adult, as it is then that the individual can accept Christianity for themselves. This type of baptism is called believers' baptism.

It is done using total immersion, where the person being baptised walks down into a pool and is fully submerged, often three times, before walking out into their new life.

Symbols used at Baptism

Water is used in Baptism as a symbol of life. In Baptism Christ gives new life.

Holy oil (oil of chrism) is a symbol of strength and healing. It a symbol that the baby has the gift of the Holy Spirit and has been made holy, a special friend of Jesus who is seen as king. Oil of Chrism is blessed by the Archbishop during Holy Week and given to every parish to use.

At Baptism, some churches wrap new members in a *white* garment as a sign of acceptance and belonging in the community of faith. White is a symbol of purity and cleanliness. The white baptismal garment shows that the newly baptised is now a Christian and with the help of family and friends will grow up to be like Jesus. They are wrapped in the white garment – wrapped in God's love. In some churches people wear their normal everyday clothes.

The *candle* is a sign that Jesus is the light of the world. At Easter, the Paschal candle is lit as a sign of the risen life of Christ. At baptism, a small candle is lit from the Paschal candle and given to the parents and godparents for the child. The priest says, "Receive the light of Christ." They are instructed to keep the light burning brightly and the flame of faith alive in their child's heart.

Communion

Communion, (or the Eucharist, the Mass, the Lord's supper, the Lord's table, depending on denomination) is when Christians take the bread and the wine that represent the body and blood of Jesus. Some churches, such as Catholic and some Anglo-Catholic Anglican churches, prepare children in a very formal way to take communion. There are classes and the day that they take communion is seen as a celebration. In other churches, it is less formal, and children are welcomed from a very early stage.

Confirmation

Some denominations, particularly those that practice infant baptism, have a second stage in the process of becoming a full member of the church. This usually involves the bishop or his/her representative laying hands on the church member and inviting the Holy Spirit to fill them. Confirmation is usual in Anglican and Catholic churches.

Weddings

For many Christians, a wedding is a rite of passage, and a wedding will take place in a church, with a formal service. For these Christians, the wedding vows are made in the sight of God and are part of a promise made between partners. Weddings the way they are conducted in the western church do not have a biblical focus; Christian weddings have changed over the centuries and in many ways are more formal now than in the days of the early church. Before the 12th century, marriages were usually conducted in a private home, and then weddings were conducted in the doorway of the church, in the public sphere. Marriages were often arranged, often between very young people.

Dying and Funerals

The last rites, also known as the Commendation of the Dying, are the last prayers and ministrations given to an individual of Christian faith, when possible, shortly before death, especially in the Catholic Church. They may be administered to those awaiting execution, mortally injured, or terminally ill. Last rites cannot be performed on someone who has already died. Last rites, in sacramental Christianity, can refer to multiple sacraments administered concurrently in anticipation of an individual's passing. In Anglican tradition, the Last Rites are a way to protect those who are in grave danger of dying. This ritual prepares the soul to face their final judgment in the afterlife. Christians believe that by confessing one's sins and receiving Holy Communion, a dying person is free from his or her sins in the face of God.

Prior learning:	Y1 - What do most Christians celebrate together?
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	Y2 - Why do many Christians meet together regularly and what do they do? Y3 - How does the worldwide Christian family celebrate, worship and mark key events?
Building Blocks:	Rites of passage are important to some Christians and mark key events. Some rites of passage such as baptism have biblical roots. Some churches have Infant and/or adult baptism. Confirmation, weddings, and funerals are practiced in different ways in different cultures and traditions.
Outcomes:	Lesson 1: Pupils demonstrate an understanding of the term 'rite of passage' and can talk about Christian Baptism. Lesson 2: Pupils demonstrate an understanding of what happens during a Baptism ceremony. Lesson 3: Pupils to demonstrate an understanding of the symbols of Baptism. Lesson 4: Pupils can represent the Baptism of Jesus. Lesson 5: Pupils can reflect and decide on what values they are committed to and where these originate from, in the same way as Christians are committed to Baptism as a rite of passage.
Resources:	See lesson plans for video links Images of Jesus' Baptism- Lesson 4
Engagement:	
<p><u>Lesson 1: Engage: What is a rite of passage?</u></p> <p>Definition: special times of transition in your life, you do each thing once before moving on to the next.</p> <p>Whole class discussion: What rites of passage have you experienced? Graduating from pre-school, starting primary school, losing your first tooth, certificates for sports/clubs, badges e.g Brownies, Cubs etc.</p> <p>What do these things have in common? They are all times where we do something that we haven't done before. These could be linked to our age or our abilities and they usually signify moving on from one experience to a new experience or stage.</p> <p>These are secular experiences. What does that mean? Not linked to a faith or religion.</p> <p>Dictionary: Definitions from Oxford Languages Rite of passage (noun) A ceremony or event marking an important stage in someone's life, especially birth, the transition from childhood to adulthood, marriage, and death.</p> <p>Resources - RE:quest (request.org.uk)</p> <p>Table activity or whole class discussion: What rites of passage might a religious person experience? Baptism, christening, wedding, confirmation, First Communion, Arabic school, Bat Mitzvah (female 12yo)/ Bar Mitzvah (male 13yo), become a member of the Khalsa (amrit sanskar).</p> <p>The rite of passage we are going to learn about this half term is Baptism.</p> <p>Christian Baptism - YouTube</p>	
Enquire and Explore:	
<p><u>Lesson 2: How is baptism a rite of passage for Christians?</u></p>	

Table/paired discussion: What do you know about baptism? Think back to the video from last lesson. Rewatch from last week.

[The Meaning of Baptism \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXOuuMOwPzE&t=52s)

This video talks about Christians dying to sin in baptism and rising with Christ to share in his resurrection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXOuuMOwPzE&t=52s>

Short video to summarise full body immersion for C of E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVXxRIMIWiY>

A baptism in Uganda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ce8S2N0UgZQ> Greek Orthodox baby baptism

Key Questions:

What is the same about each baptism? What is different about each baptism?

What aspects are present in each example? Why do you think this is? Which things vary? If you had to write a set of instructions 'How to Baptise' what would you include?

Lesson 3: What are the symbols of Baptism?

<http://www.mayobridgeparish.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Sacrament-of-Baptism-Signs-and-Symbols.pdf>

(Handout produced by a Catholic Parish Church to identify and explain the symbolism of baptism.)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zh4f3k7/revision/1>

Explains the seven sacraments of the Catholic church, with a link to Baptism.

Anointing with Holy Oil:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb3AB0BOXmA>

King Charles being anointed in oil during his coronation - as someone who is Christian who serves.

Evaluate:	
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Lesson 4: What do Christians learn from the Baptism of Jesus?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ5jm5Ix5bY>

The Miracle Maker- Jesus Baptism

At the very start of Jesus' public life, it pictures the Trinity: The voice of God announces Jesus as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit is presented in the form of a dove. Christians believe that one important thing the story teaches is that Jesus is not just a good man but God, come to Earth to rescue humanity. In Baptism, the water symbolises a new beginning; the old ways are washed away and a new life begins- one that is closer to God.

[Why Was Jesus Baptized? | Made For Glory \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ5jm5Ix5bY)

A Catholic priest talks about his trip to the River Jordan and shares his insight into why Jesus was baptised.

<p>Why do Christians baptise in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit?</p>	
<p>Reflect and communicate:</p>	
<p>Lesson 5: Why do Christians decide to be baptised?</p> <p>Why do many people want to involve others in important moments in their lives?</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoYDa4VKH80 My Mummy Says I'm A Miracle- from Matilda the musical</p> <p>What can we learn about our own values and commitments from the values, commitments and attitudes of others? Time to reflect on the learning from this unit and look at our own beliefs. We can see why Christians choose to be baptised or baptise their babies. What values do we have because they are introduced and supported by our families (e.g., favourite football team)? Does the choice to be baptise symbolise the change, or does the act of baptism bring about the change? Which do pupils think it is and why? Or can it be both?</p> <p>How do we decide what we need to commit to in our lives based on the things we are taught by our families and those who support and care for us?</p> <p>What benefits and challenges can commitment bring to our lives? 11 benefits of being a Christian — St Marks Camberwell (stmarkscamberwell.org.au)</p> <p>Pick your top 3 - Debate.</p> <p>What other rites of passage might Christians participate in? What does these tell others about what Christians hold to be of value? This could be explored if time permitted.</p>	
<p>Assessment opportunities:</p>	<p>Design a way to celebrate or mark a Christian rite of passage, referring to tradition and scripture. Demonstrate the links between modern church baptism and biblical baptism. Give an explanation for the symbolism in a rite of passage.</p>
<p>Notes</p>	



Andrea del Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci 1472-1475



The Baptism of Christ by Daniel Bonnel