

# WE ARE GOD'S BELOVED CHILDREN

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of Jesus, if possible being baptised in the Jordan by John.
- > Picture of a modern day baptism.
- > Candle or dove shape cut-outs.
- > A large imitation candle: i.e. cardboard tube, paper to make the flame, and bright yellow felt pen.

## SHARING

Encourage the children to share their memories or experiences of baptisms.

When were they baptised?  
By whom?  
What name were they given?  
Who are their godparents?  
What promises did they make on the children's behalf?

What were the children given at baptism?  
- a lighted candle.

What task were they given?  
- to keep the light of faith burning brightly.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**This is my Son, the beloved.**  
**Listen to him.**  
**Alleluia!**

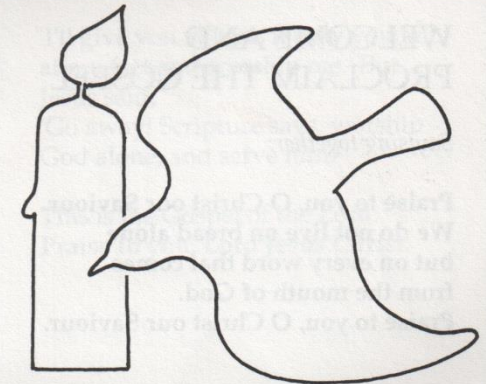
A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew, Mark and Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptised by John in the River Jordan. At first John said, 'You should be baptising me, yet you come to me!' But Jesus said 'Leave it this way for now.' No sooner had Jesus come up out of

the water than he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'This is my Son, the beloved.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## DISCUSSION

Where was Jesus baptised?  
And who by?  
What happened?  
- he saw heaven opening;  
- the Spirit came down on Jesus;  
- a voice from heaven said . . .

The same Spirit came upon us when we were baptised.

God says the same of us, that we are his children.

Explain to the children that it was after his baptism that Jesus began his work of preaching and teaching, of spreading the Good News. We too are baptised so that we too can spread the Good News of God's love.

## ACTIVITIES

Either:

- > Give out the candle shapes, and either: have the children decorate them to represent their baptismal candle.
- or: have them write or draw how they will bring the light of Christ into their homes this week.

Or:

- > Give out the dove shapes.
- > Have the children write a prayer

asking the Holy Spirit to come on them and change them into more loving and caring people.

Or:

- > Make up a large imitation candle from a cardboard tube, with a large white paper flame.
- > Have the children write their name on the 'flame' with the yellow pen, and have them notice how the flame becomes brighter as more names are added.