

PREPARATION COURSE FOR ADMITTING CHILDREN TO HOLY COMMUNION



This is a brief outline to use with different activities depending on the age and number of children. There will probably be more activities than you need. Please select those which are most suitable for your group. Each group should be led by a minimum of two leaders, both of whom have a DBS.

Session 1:

AIM To explore what it means to be a member of a group; particularly thinking about whether there are responsibilities and/or benefits from being part of the group. In addition, the children should learn about how you become a member of a group.

- a) Use some “getting to know you” activities, e.g. passing ball in different patterns and saying the name of the person you are throwing to; finding out funny facts about each other; use the “Find Someone” game. Depending on age and energy levels more/fewer active games or quieter games for older children. Even if your children all know each other it is still a good idea to do at least one of these activities, as some children seem to know very little about their peers.
- b) Where do you belong? Think about all the groups you are in – family, brownies, football, school, cubs, music group etc. Write a list without your name and make it into a paper aeroplane. Everyone catches and has to guess who it is.
- c) Talk about how people knew you were in that group e.g. I knew that you played the clarinet so I thought that you might be in the music group.
- d) Anyone mentioned belonging to church? What things show we belong – talk about this, write ideas on flip chart. Hopefully BAPTISM will surface as an idea, if not, mention it.
- e) Use doll and baptise or CPAS video or YouTube clip depending on age.
- f) What do the children think about a Baptism which shows that we are part of God’s family? Do they think that there is an age at which it is good to get baptised?

Give some time for other thoughts or questions, it might take a while for them to do this, depending on how well the leaders know the children.

Homework – try to find a photo of you at your baptism or talk to someone who was there. Did you cry or did you like all the fuss?

Session 2

AIM – To explore the idea of Jesus dying for us and to talk a little about what this means (some children won't be ready to talk about this at the stage they are at, but it still might be helpful to watch the short video and give thinking time.

- a) Follow up any Baptism pictures or stories.
- b) Give the Images of God picture out for the children to look at. Which picture helps them to explain what they think about God? Could they describe Jesus using any of these images?
- c) Talk about what happened when Jesus died and why Christians believe this to be important. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uppjUEzOwOg>
Or you could use a white hanky, spray starch, iodine and sodium sulphite anhydrous. (See demo on You Tube) (available Mistralni. Co.uk)
- d) Think about why Jesus did this.
- e) Then use plates, cups and glasses to act out what happened at the Last Supper. Talk about why we celebrate communion and how by doing this we "Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"
- f) BBC bitesize has examples to listen to and watch.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z8vcd2p>

Homework - try to make a list of 4 or 5 words which you might use to describe what communion means to Christians.



Session 3 – With any parents/carers who would like to come.

Aim To explore the way in which communion is shared in their church and to prepare for the admission to communion.

- a) Ask the children to interview their own PARENT to discover what they know about their own baptism or confirmation. Did anything surprise the children?
- b) Go through (in church is best) what will happen at their admission service and through the whole communion service, using the correct names for everything used. Let the children handle (carefully) the chalice or cup and the paten. Let them taste the wafer or bread and the wine. Talk about what you could do if you really dislike the taste. (Some churches have an alternate, non-alcoholic black grape juice which is available for anyone who would prefer it.) Many children think that sharing a cup is unhygienic, so you might need to talk about this.
- c) Encourage them to come looking as normal as possible – this isn't a time for getting special new clothes – save them for a wedding or a big party. This is an important day for them, but it's good to come just as you normally do, our relationship with Jesus isn't just for extra special days, it's for always!

Let parents and children discuss and ask questions. Some might be concerned about young children receiving alcohol, discuss the tiny quantities involved!

THIS IS THE POINT AT WHICH YOU MIGHT WANT TO GIVE THE CERTIFICATES OUT. SOME CHURCHES PREFER TO DO THIS DURING THE SERVICE, BUT IN SOME WAYS IT'S PERHAPS BETTER FOR THE SERVICE TO BE AS NORMAL AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE CHILDREN DON'T FEEL THAT THEY ARE "ON SHOW" .

