



WHY BAPTISM? STAND UP - SIT DOWN GAME

BACKGROUND

This game is a great ice breaker for the start of a family workshop that gets parents and children moving! More importantly, it provides parents an opportunity to talk to their child about why they chose to have them baptised.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Instruct the parents and children to STAND UP if something you say applies to them.
- For example:
 - “Stand up if you were born in another country”.
 - Those who were born in another country stand. Take a moment to invite everyone to look around and see who else is in this group.
 - If the question lends itself to it, invite parents/children to share more about their answers with the group e.g. Where were you born?
- Then have them sit back down and continue with the next ‘stand up’ question. Here are a list of options to get you started but make adjustments according to the families in your workshop.
- STAND UP IF YOU:
 - were born in another country?
 - have brown hair?
 - play a team sport?
 - have a drivers licence?
 - love broccoli?
 - are left handed?
 - are a night owl? (i.e. love to stay up late)
 - HAVE BEEN BAPTISED? (always finish with this one)

DEBRIEF

Ask the children the following leading questions:

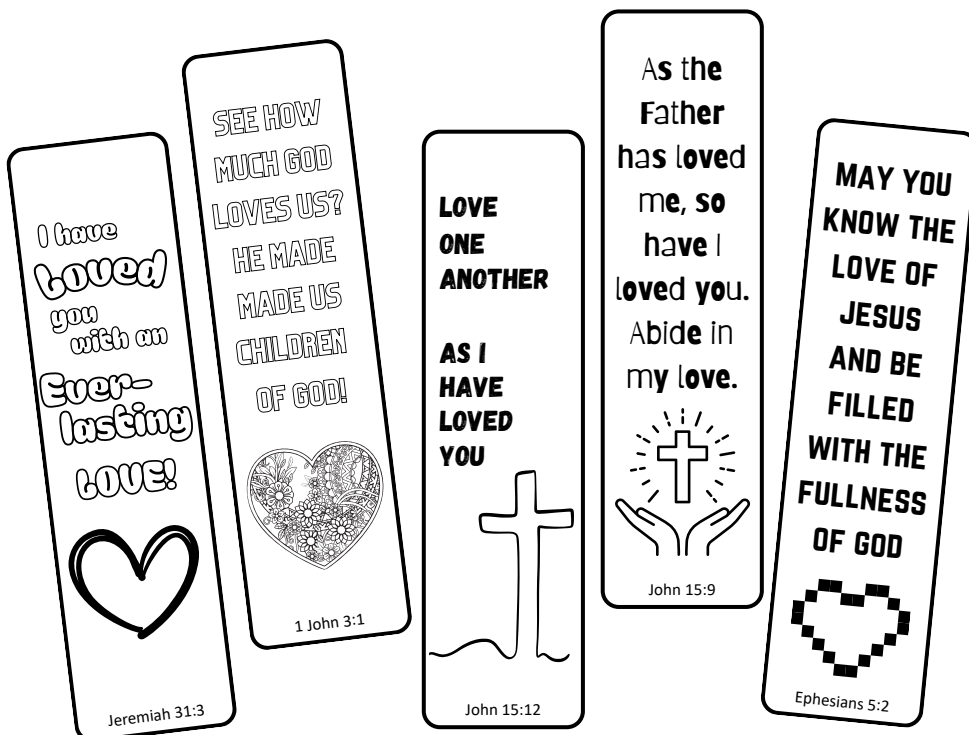
- **Wow! So many of you have been baptised! Who remembers their baptism?**
 - Some children may remember. Invite them to share their memories with the group.
 - Many children will not because they were baptised as infants.
- (referring to those who don't remember) **Hmmm... why don't you remember your baptism?**
 - Because we were babies!
- **That's right! No matter when you were baptised (infant or young child) it wasn't your decision! So, who decided to have you baptised?**
 - Our parents
- **I wonder why? Have you ever asked your parents why they wanted to have you baptised? Now is your chance. Go ahead and ask: mum/dad/carer, why did you have me baptised?**
- Give families a chance to talk with each other.



WHY BAPTISM? STAND UP - SIT DOWN GAME

DEBRIEF cont...

- Invite feedback from the children by asking **‘What did you mum/dad/carer say?’**.
 - Note: As each child responds, the challenge here is to joyfully receive, affirm and ‘level up’ the reasons their parents have given for their baptism, knowing that others in the room are listening. In the column to the right, you will see some example responses.
- **‘Now that we have talked about your family’s reasons for baptism we need to remember something really important.**
Baptism is about relationship.
Relationship with God and with the Church.
Relationships are two-ways, so that means while we have our reasons, God has reasons too!
So, what is God’s big reason for you to be baptised?
GOD LOVES YOU!
God loves you so much and wants to draw you into his love and life so that you can grow as a Child of God!
- Take the opportunity to remind parents in the room that this is true for them as well.
- To finish this activity, you may like to offer the children (and parents?) a choice of scriptures (see following pages) to help them remember God’s special reason.



Child: My mum said ‘to be a member of the Catholic Church’.

Leader response: ‘Yes, isn’t it wonderful to be joined with so many other people who follow Jesus all around the world!’

Child: My dad said ‘to be grow up with Catholic values’.

Leader response: ‘Yes, all the things that Jesus taught us really show us how to love God and love other people well!’

Child: My mum said ‘it was something Grandma really wanted’.

Leader response: ‘Your family must love each other very much! Our faith has been passed on to us for about 2000 years and now your family are passing it on to you. What a gift!’

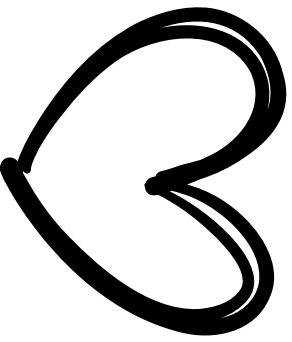
Child: My dad said ‘to get into a Catholic school’.

Leader response: ‘Your parents must love you a lot! Our Catholic schools are really special places where you will get to learn about Jesus and pray with other kids and teachers!’

Child: My mum said ‘so I can be a child of God’.

Leader response: ‘Wow, that’s so beautiful! All of you are children of God and God loves you so much!’

I have
LOVED
you
with an
ever-
lasting
love!



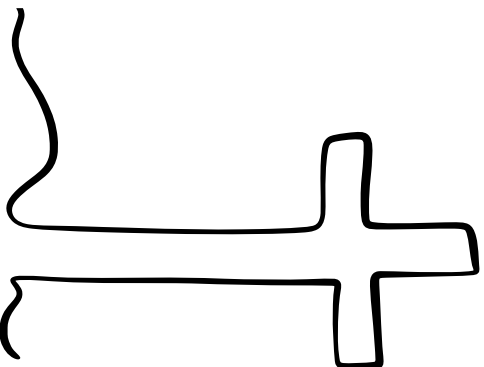
Jeremiah 31:3

SEE HOW
MUCH GOD
LOVES US?
HE MADE
MADE US
CHILDREN
OF GOD!



1 John 3:1

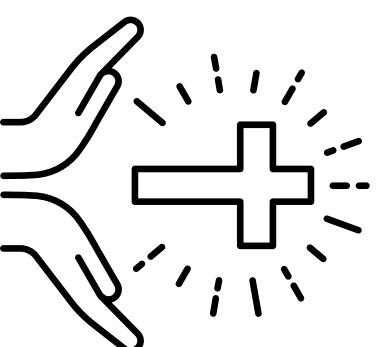
**LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER
AS I
HAVE
LOVED
YOU**



John 15:12

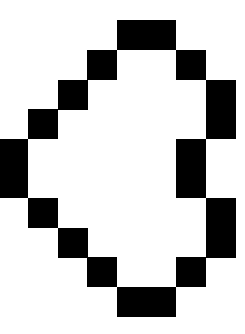
**As the
Father
has loved
me, so
have I
loved you.**

Abide in
my love.



John 15:9

**MAY YOU
KNOW THE
LOVE OF
JESUS
AND BE
FILLED
WITH THE
FULLNESS
OF GOD**



Ephesians 5:2