

I Belong to God

The story of my baptism



At my baptism God made ME one of his family.

This is what happened.

My family and friends took me to church, which is God's house, so that I could be baptised (or another word is christened). I was made a member of God's family in a special way.

First my parents chose some of their friends to be my godparents. As I was a baby my parents and godparents answered some questions. The priest asked them, 'Do you turn to Christ? Do you repent of your sins? Do you reject selfish living? Do you renounce evil?' They answered that they did and promised to help me grow up as a Christian.

Being a Christian means following Jesus Christ. Christians turn to him to help them fight against all the wrong things in the world – what God calls sin. Christians try to be like Jesus and help other people.

Next the priest blessed the water in the font. Water makes us clean, refreshes us, and helps us stay alive. The water used at my baptism reminds us that Jesus washes away our sins, refreshes our spirits, and keeps us alive with him for ever. In some places people go right down into a pool of water when they are being baptised.

When I was baptised I was too young to talk, so my parents and godparents, on my behalf, said that they believed in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Then the priest poured some of the blessed water over my head three times and called me by my name, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'.

After that the sign of the cross, the sign of Jesus Christ, was made on my forehead in water (sometimes they use oil). You can't see it, but I know it's there – for always!



The priest said, 'I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever'. Everyone was looking at ME.

Then the priest said, 'Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith'. And all the people joined in, 'Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory'.

I was given a lighted candle too, but of course someone had to hold it for me. The candle was to show that God had brought me out of darkness into his marvellous light, so I must shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The people at my baptism prayed for me, and my parents and godparents will encourage me to learn more about God as I grow up. Everyone is happy that I now belong to God's family in this special way.

I am too!



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