

Junior Church at-home session for January 2022



Readings for the Month

Epiphany – Matthew 2.1-12

Baptism of the Lord – Luke 3.15-17 21-22

All in God's time – Water into Wine – John 2.1-11

Set free to Serve - Jesus in the Synagogue – Luke 4.14-21

This month we explore emerging from darkness with new hope.

As we recall the journey of the magi, we explore also the journeys we make as individuals and as church communities, and where they might lead us in the coming year. Emerging from the difficult journeys of the past couple of years with renewed hope, Jesus walks beside us.

We get to know Jesus, from being Baptised, to performing his first miracle and learning about his teachings in the synagogue.

We have been called by name and we belong to God, we too are his beloved children.



I wonder?

- Where do we see God doing extraordinary things in our everyday ordinary lives?
- Where are the everyday miracles and how is God transforming us into something beautiful?
- What's the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you?
- How would you have reacted if you had seen Jesus doing something amazing?
- How could you transform something in an amazing way for somebody else?



Prayer Activity – Food dye prayers

Symbolise prayers of transformation

You will need: transparent cups of water, blue, red and green food dye.

- Give out cups of water and the food dye, and explain that each colour represents a different prayer.
- Invite the young people to put the dye in the water, watch as the water transforms and pray silently for the following:

Blue – something that they are sorry for,

Red – thank you for someone/something

Green – ask for an area of their lives that they would like God to transform.



Creative Activity - Life-sized collage

Express your response to being loved by God

You will need: a roll of lining paper (long enough for one of the children to lie down on), pencil.

- Lie on the paper, and another draw an outline around them.
- Encourage the children to think about how God might see them – their gifts and talents, their personalities and character, the good qualities they have.
- Invite everyone to write or draw these things inside the body shape, perhaps in the relevant areas (i.e. a skill involving the hands or feet might be written in those areas; a caring heart or clever mind might be written in the chest or head). Lastly, ask them to write in the gaps what the idea of being beloved to God means to them.



Prayer

Lord God,
We are all part of your family, we are all loved by you.
Thank you for the extraordinary gift we are to each other.
Help us not to forget that.
Amen.



For the month

Chalk the doorframes

Consider how different churches mark the beginning of a new year

You will need: chalk, a doorframe.

- Explain that various churches mark Epiphany by chalking doorframes with symbols recognising the wise men's visit (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and the beginning of a new year: 20C + M + B + 22. This also invites us to look forward instead of back.
- Invite the children to think of an emotion or habit they wish to leave behind from the past year. Once everyone is ready, mark the symbols (see above) on the doorframe with the chalk. Then invite everyone to walk through the doorway, leaving the old behind and emerging with new hope.
- Talk about the symbolism of walking through a doorway from the old to the new. Ask if the children might seek permission to chalk their doorframes at home.

