

## KS2 Unit 4, Lesson 5: Exploring a church building

**Context:** Previously pupils will have learned about the practices of infant and believer's baptism. They will know from the previous lesson that the practise of baptism is rooted in the Bible. They will have learned that there are different kinds of Christian church and the names for some of these.

**Overview:**

- Children will understand the importance of baptism to Christians (see learning outcomes for previous lesson)
- Children will be able to explain some key differences about beliefs and practices associated with baptism between two different Christian denominations.

**Essential core:** Recall some of the similarities and differences between two different kind of Christian church

Identify how each might do the same things but in different ways (e.g. baptism)

Understand that they may do some things in different ways but share many common practices and beliefs.

**Resources:** Copies of attached worksheet "Exploring a church building" and speech bubble callout sheet.

**Vocabulary:** denomination, Baptist, Anglican, Church of England, infant baptism, believer's baptism  
Christian, baptism, christening, denomination

This lesson would consist of a visit to an Anglican or Methodist or other church where infant baptism is practised, and a visit to a Baptist or other church where believer's baptism is practised, preferably one that has a baptistery (a space within the church building where baptism by total immersion is practised).

A suggested itinerary for the visit to the two church buildings would be as follows:

10-15 mins - children explore the church using a worksheet as a focus for their exploration and attention

20 mins - a baptism demonstration - in an Anglican or Methodist church this could consist of a clergy person doing a 'mock' baptism of a doll, with children standing in as parents/godparents and other children being congregation.

In a church that practices believers' baptism, this could consist of the baptistery being opened up, and the pastor/minister demonstrating with a volunteer (child or adult), how a person is baptised (without the water!).

10-15 mins - opportunity for children to ask questions about the baptism.

Ensure that the minister/clergy person is asked (by you or children!) why they practise either infant/believer's baptism (on what do they base their practise?) Also, ask them what they would have in common with the other church you are visiting, and how they seek to work together with other churches.

**Formative assessment:**

Back in school, follow up the trip by considering what was the same and different about the baptism in the two different churches.

**Differentiation:** Extend this to look at what else was the same/ different in terms of the buildings, the décor and decorations, and what their beliefs. Remind children what was said about how, despite differences, different churches seek to work together.