

Welcome to our KA Postal Activity Gourse. I'm delighted that you want to discover more about some important things. These important things include God, ourselves and the world we live in.

The life of Jesus is key to the Christian faith. Hundreds of years ago a man called Mark wrote about it and his book is included in the Bible. Mark could have been like a reporter, because he lived at the time of Jesus and was probably at many of the events he describes.



Read Mark's account in your Bible: *Mark 1:1-12



A man called John was baptizing people in the River Jordan.

Jesus, who was his cousin, came to him and asked to be baptized too.

John knew that Jesus was special. God spoke as Jesus was baptized.

Look at the passage in your Mark's Gospel and write in blue the description of the Holy Spirit and write in red the words spoken by God's voice from Heaven.



To find the place in the Bible, look in the index for Mark. The New Testament (the second part of the Bible) begins: Matthew, MARK, Luke and John.

* The first number is the chapter. The other numbers are verses in the chapter.

WATER

Make a list of all the good things that water can do

Put a tick next to the things you think should be cleaned from our lives if we want to please God, who wants us to be good and happy.

Spite selfishness laziness

Now add any other wrong things that you think make lives 'dirty'.

Fill in the gaps with the right words from the red list to find out what this sentence is saying.

Jesus was	in the water of th	ne
to show that although he had		
done	_, he was on the side of th	e
who had been sinful. The came a		_ came as
a sign that he wa	as Son.	

God's – River Jordan – Holy Spirit – no wrong – people – baptized

When the life of a Christian is made 'clean' from wrongdoing, God's Holy Spirit comes to them to help them continue to live a good life. Then they can live and act more like Jesus did. The dove is a symbol of the

Holy Spirit

Have you, or anyone in your family, been baptized or christened as a baby?

A baby is too young to understand what is happening, or to make promises. We all have to make a choice about accepting Christian faith for ourselves when we

d enough to understand.

ony parents or a dedication only parents or showing the child how to live a good life.

A baby is sometimes given a name at the ceremony and at the same time the child is welcomed into the church family.

Fonts like this have been used for christenings in British churches since the time of the Normans.

About how many years ago is this?

400 years 900 years 1,500 years

(Tick the one you think is right.)



An old stone font

My Christian name is It means

Some Christian groups have a ceremony of baptism for adults who have decided to follow the Christian way of life. It can take place in a baptistry – a small pool of water – or sometimes in a river or the sea. Others use a small sprinkling of water to represent spiritual cleansing. Yet others have confirmation ceremonies or 'swearing-in', where no water is used at all.

These are all special occasions to mark the important fact that a person has accepted God's forgiveness and wants to follow Jesus. The ceremonies don't actually make a person a Christian. They just celebrate the fact that the person has made that decision.

When Jesus was baptized it marked the beginning of his public work for God.

ACTION SPOT

1. Look for photographs, certificates or other records of christenings, baptisms, confirmations or dedications of members of your family and friends.

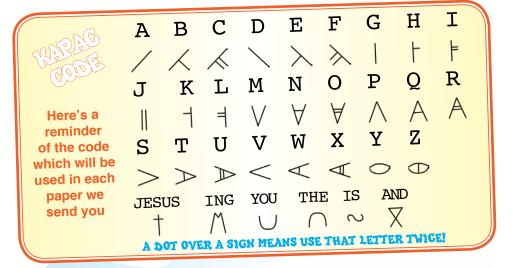
There may be a big family Bible somewhere, with these details on a special page.

2. Visit a church and look for a font – it's usually near the entrance at the opposite end from the altar.

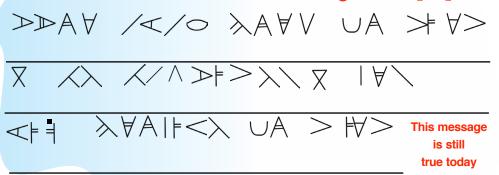
Draw a christening or dedication ceremony

On this church plan draw a small circle to show where the font is found.

Mark other features if you can.



Use the code to discover John's message to the people



Quick Quiz

Read Mark 1:1-12 in your Good News Gospel

- 1. Where did John appear?
- 2. What did people have to give up?
- 3. From which city did people go to hear John?
- 4. Where did he baptize them?
- 5. What did John wear?
- 6. What did he eat?
- 7. Did John think he was good enough to be Jesus' servant?