

Candlemas: Baby Jesus in the Temple

Baptism:

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Storyteller: As you place the three white felt circles on the floor in a triangular shape one at a time, say: We baptise in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Hold up the jug of water and say: When God Created the Heaven and the earth, the earth was without form, and empty, and the Spirit God moved over the waters. When the children of Israel left slavery in Egypt, and when they entered to the land God promised them, they walked between the waters of the Sea of Reeds, and of the River Jordan. With water, Jesus' cousin John baptized people, and even baptized Jesus. Water is a precious gift from God. *Pour some water from the jug into the bowl and place the water bowl and jug on one of the felt circles.*

Light the Christ Candle and hold it up and say: When it is dark, we cannot see what is near us. But light helps us see clearly. Jesus is the Light of the world. When we know Jesus, we can see clearly that God is always with us. When Jesus is in our hearts, then we can be light for other people too. *Place the candle on the second felt circle.*

Pick up the cross and place it in the third circle. God loves us and provides the whole earth with water and light, so that we and all God's creatures may have everything we need. But some of God's people and creatures do not get what they need. That is because people do wrong. People can be mean or selfish and ruin God's good plan. I've been mean and selfish sometimes. You've been mean and selfish too. God would be fair to take away the good things he has given us. But instead God gave us one more thing. It was something very hard to give, but God gave it to us anyway. God gave us forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross.

Sit quietly looking at the cross, and think about God's good gifts.

Touch the cross: God gives forgiveness through the cross where Jesus died. *Touch the candlestick.* God is our light and makes us be light for others, because Jesus, the Light, rose from the dead. *Touch the water.* God is with us in our hearts as the Spirit of God, who moved on the water of creation, and who came to the church when Jesus went up into heaven. God gives all these good things to God's sons and daughters. By baptism, we become sons and daughters of God.

Story Materials

- ☐ Three white felt circles
- ☐ Jug of water
- ☐ bowl for water
- ☐ candle-holder
- ☐ candle
- ☐ matches
- ☐ cross