

RE Lesson - The Trinity and Baptism

Put a clear glass of water in front of you. What words can you think of to describe it?

Think about times when water is: cleansing, refreshing, life-giving, beautiful, dangerous, still, flowing, powerful, reflective like a mirror, thirst-quenching.

What else is water good for?

Christians use water for baptism because it has many different symbolic meanings.

A 'Gospel' is a life-story or biography of the life and teaching of Jesus. Read this story from one of the Gospels - Matthew Chapter 3:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+3%3A11-17&version=ICB>

What do you think is happening?

Watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7NMHOLPWeTM>

Christians believe that one important thing the story teaches is that Jesus is not just a good man, but actually God, come to Earth to rescue humanity.

Does that sound a bit like the Hindu god Vishnu (the preserver) to you?

Just like Hindus believe that there is only one god, with 3 parts (the Trimurti), Christians too believe in 1 God with three parts, but they call it the Trinity (tri means 3). The 3 parts are: the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a bit similar to Brahman. Do you remember that Hindus believe that Brahman is everywhere and in everything? Well, Christians believe that is a bit what the Holy Spirit is like.

Look these paintings of the Baptism of Jesus:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/baptism-of-christ/HgEOTNZqMx1hXw?hl=en-GB>

<https://pixels.com/featured/the-baptism-of-the-christ-with-dove-daniel-bonnell.html>

The Holy Spirit is represented by a dove. This is often how Christians think of the Holy Spirit, because doves symbolise peace and purity. Jesus is often represented by a lamb. Why do you think that might be?

Your job today is in 2 parts. The first is to research some symbols that are already used to represent each part of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

The second part is to draw me a picture of the Baptism of Jesus and to include in it some symbols to represent God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. You can choose these symbols yourself from ones you have researched, or make them up, but you must tell me why you chose them. What do they symbolise about God?