

# Come and See 2025

## Children: Week 6

Question 1: Have you ever felt like your heart was warm?

Question 2: When have you seen someone shine like a light in a dark place/time?

Question 3: I wonder why Jesus' followers need God's help or power in their lives?

Question 4: What does it feel like to shine God's warmth into the world?

Question 5: What would you say to the world about God?

## New Fire

Hi, it's Charlie again, for the last of our six talks about baptism in our Come and See Lent series for this year. Last week we thought about the breath of life and this week we're going to think about new fire, new fire.

I wonder what you think about when you think of fire. I think about wonderful, big, slightly out of control and scary bonfires. Bonfires where you all gather round and on a dark November night, maybe you get warmth and heat and light. But yes there is that kind of scary element about them as well isn't there, because the fire can spread, but that's a powerful thing about fire - it needs to be looked after.

And course fire, just like water and breath, is another thing that is absolutely essential for human life. It's believed that when humans were able to create fire they began to advance as civilizations because they could cook food and they could also live in colder places.

Now the Bible speaks about the Holy Spirit, as well as being like breath and water, it talks about it also as being like fire. And in fact, when those first disciples of Jesus were gathered together after the resurrection, they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and it said that

there were little flames. Here's a flame here. A flame came on top of their head. It said 'divided tongues of flame'.

In fact, if you've ever seen a bishop, you know a bishop has a pointy hat like this. The reason they have a pointy hat is so that they look like a candle. Literally it represents a flame, to say that they are alive in the Holy Spirit and that they are there to spread the Holy Spirit.

And I guess the key thing about fire here with the Holy Spirit is that we're not to keep the flame to ourselves. We are asked by God and Jesus through the Holy Spirit to share that flame, to share that love with others, not simply to hold it to ourselves. To share the warmth with people who are cold or struggling. To share the light with those people who feel that they are in a time of darkness.

And then at the end of the baptism service, if you've ever been to one, the vicar or the priest gives a candle to the child, or if it's a baby to their parents or godparents, and says, 'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father'.

And so maybe this is an appropriate place to end as we come to the end of this series. I wonder as a challenge whether you and your school could shine as a light in the world. Could you burn brightly to the glory of God and share in God with others? Or burn brightly in the way that you treat others kindly with love and with respect and honour?

There's a lovely moment often in carol services where a light is taken, and everyone holding a candle lights that light, and you see a church or a cathedral light up with hundreds, maybe even thousands of candle flames. Imagine if we could share that light with a world that sometimes feels very dark. That's my challenge for you as we come to the end of this series.

And it's been great traveling with you. If you're doing the Space Maker exercises there's one more to do. Perhaps, we've got two blessing exercises and you could look at one doing one of those. But whatever you do, it's been great to travel this journey with you and to share this series thinking about baptism. Take care and God bless you.