

# Come and See

Week 2: For teens

## Why does baptism include water?

It includes water because I think it just washes away your sins and because Jesus did it in the rivers.

Water sort of comes to you and takes away all the badness in you but replaces it with goodness, I would say. So it leaves the traces of goodness on you and washes away all the badness.

As a young person, my faith is in its roots stages, you know, it's not yet rooted and I think water, you know, both the literal sense for a plant, you know, it can help a plant grow, know, it gives it the strong core and foundation of a plant.

I think, you know, it's so important for humans, for any living organism, you know, I think it really helps build up and like firmly root down your faith.

I think it includes water because water is what gives a lot of things life. You can't live without water. Plants can't live without water. Just like the earth in general is full of water. And I feel like when you get baptised, it's like going on to a new life. So the water is a symbol of giving you new life.

Because when you use water to have a bath or a shower, it's the idea of like cleansing yourself so it's the idea of cleansing our sins.

## What is it that washes us? The water or something or someone else?

There's always the illusion of the Holy Spirit being this fire but I mean I don't see it as a fire I see it as this water sent from God, and I believe that you know that the water is its own thing but it's also you know it's got- it's the Holy Spirit as well, and I think that really washes over us, and I think it's a mix between just water and the Holy Spirit.

It's like a representation of what's going on inside. So I think God is trying to flush away all the things that have happened because you repent.

I'd say it's the water being influenced that washes us on our baptism, by God.

I think it's like the Holy Spirit. It washes you of any darkness that you might have. And it can help you feel more alive or clean or whatever you want to get out of it.

It's God and the Holy Spirit washing us.

Actually, I'm not sure.

## The Waters of Cleansing

### **Mark**

So hi, it's Mark and Laverne again with session two of this little journey that we're going on through Lent. So today we're going to be looking at, and we've been doing this for a few weeks, that whole idea of water.

Well, water is everywhere. So why is it such a rich symbolism in the Bible and the Christian faith?

### **Laverne**

Yeah, one of the questions was, well, what is baptism and why do we use water? Now, we know that water, think we spoke to some students before, water is actually for cleansing, so you know, like how you have a shower, you might have a bath, it's actually to get rid of all that dirt.

So actually in baptism, it's more times when you go fully under the water, and some people may have seen that, that's actually just a symbol of us getting, saying we're saying bye to our old life and actually, you know, all the sins that we're using, not to say that we won't sin again, but actually we're making that stand. You go under the water, it's almost like coming up being clean.

So actually this sense is the cleansing and that's how it fits in with this week. But I do know that one of them was, what is it that actually washes

us? Is it the water in the baptism? Is it something or someone else? So actually what is it?

## **Mark**

That's a great question. I think the water, that idea of cleansing, is symbolic or in a way demonstrating what God is doing on the inside.

And that's a challenge as well, isn't it? Because it's recognising there's stuff in my life that when I hold that before God, I think, this isn't right. Might be my attitude, my actions, my thoughts, decisions, ways that I've treated other people. And I have to own that and say, that's out of order, that's wrong. That's not the for what God would have for my life, and I need to be clean, I need to cleanse that.

And so I think when we think about baptism we're doing something very practical - lots of water lots of stuff going on, but it's saying there's something inside where I'm saying 'God there is stuff in my life that I want you to cleanse to get rid of and to clean and to wash away'.

I think at the end of this session that you might want to have a chance to think or ponder that or ask that question for yourself.

Is there things going on in your own maybe in the past or maybe even now as we're sat here or walking or chatting, and thinking 'actually God I need to deal with that and I need some cleansing'.

And you might want to have a moment of quiet after this video and bring that to God now and say 'God this is the stuff that I need cleansing from or cleaning from, this is the stuff I need to leave behind today.'