

Dottie and Buzz

Programme 3: Baptism

Programme summary

It's the day of Baby Evie's baptism. Dottie and Buzz have made her presents. Later they are taken round their local church in preparation for the service. Afterwards, everyone gathers for a photograph.

The programme focuses on the sacrament of baptism:

- It teaches that baptism marks "the start of being a Christian, when the person being baptised - or their parents and special friends - accept God's love for them and promise to live as followers of Jesus."
- The importance of children within the Christian community is emphasised.
- Symbols such as light and water are introduced.

Introduction

Share news etc.. Tell the children that this week Dottie and Buzz, like them, are going to church - the church that Dottie goes to. It is Dottie's little sister's baptism. Can they remember watching a baptism? Do they know why people are baptised?

Watch 'Dottie and Buzz' Programme 3

Activities

Here are three suggested activities for use with this programme. The first should probably be used on its own, as the business of actually planting a sunflower or other seed should take up all the available time. However, this activity is season-dependent and might not be appropriate for the time of year when you are watching this programme.

Activity One

Needs: Photocopied worksheets, soil, seeds, containers and everything else needed to plant a seed.

Task: Give each child a sheet and go through each picture, talking about why each stage is necessary. Make sure you talk about what the children will need to do at home to ensure the plant actually grows! While the children are planting their seeds, talk about the things that are necessary for a seed to grow. What happens if the seed doesn't get water, or light? What do children need in order for them to grow? Food, shelter, love...? What happens if they don't get them?

Activity Two

Needs: Photocopied worksheets, felt-tipped pens.

Task: Draw suitable clothes on Dottie and Buzz. The sheet is designed to help children think about how we celebrate special occasions. While they are working, talk about clothes that children wear for special occasions. Do they like dressing up? What are their favourite clothes? Have they ever participated in a special ceremony, e.g. baptism, wedding or, more simply, becoming a member of a group like a playgroup or (for older children) the Cubs or Brownies? What happened. Some children will be able to complete the sentence at the bottom of the sheet.

Activity Three

Needs: Photocopied worksheets and felt-tipped pens. The aim of this sheet is to encourage an appreciation of the different ways in which family and friends help us. Talk about who might be "special" people for Baby Evie.

Bible story and prayer

Tell the story of how Jesus rebuked his disciples for banning children from his presence (Mark 10: 13-16). This story is used in the Baptism service of most churches. Ask the children why they think the disciples wanted to stop the children being brought to Jesus? Why did Jesus tell them they were wrong? There are several possible answers to these questions! For Jesus children were 'symbolic' of the correct relationship between mankind and God – loving trust – but clearly children are not just 'symbols'. The church has always understood this passage as emphasising that children are an essential part of the family of the church. The church cares for its children, just as a family does.

Finish with a prayer:

*Thank you God that we are part of your family. We thank you that you love us from the moment we are born and that, through your church, we learn to trust and follow you.
Amen.*

ACTIVITY 1

Sow a Seed

Follow the instructions to grow a sunflower like Dottie's.



1 Put a few pebbles in the bottom of a plant pot.



2 Add earth.



3 Water the earth so it is damp.



4 Make a hole in the middle of the earth.



5 Plant a seed in the hole. Cover it up and wait for it to grow.

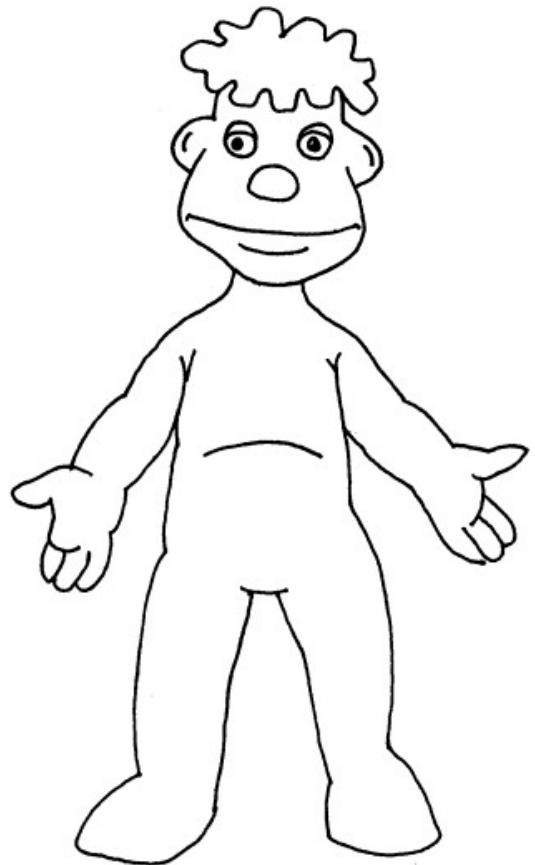
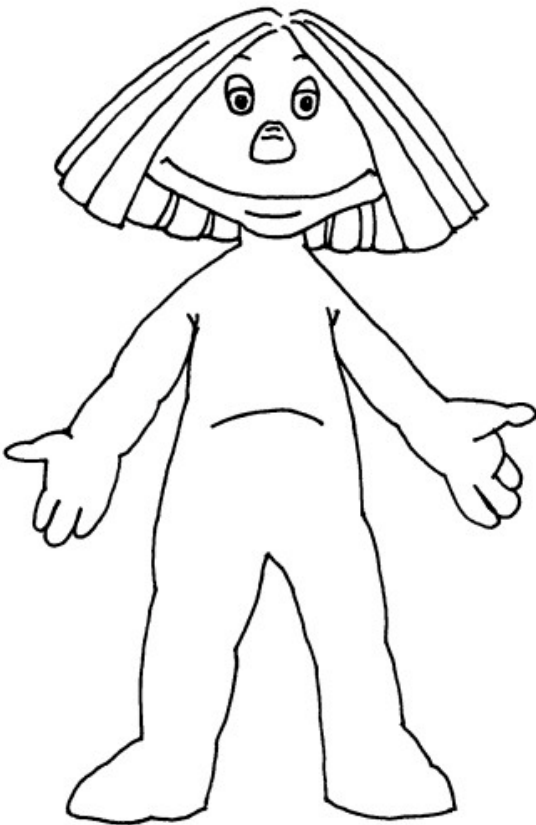


6 Keep the plant watered and in sunlight

ACTIVITY 2

Dressing Up

Dottie and Buzz are going somewhere special. Draw clothes on them.
Make sure they look smart.



ACTIVITY 3

Special People

Who is special to baby Evie?
Draw a picture of him or her in the space.