



■ Spiritual

Learning intention To celebrate the joy of being a special person in God's family.

Introduction and content

St Teresa of Kolkata taught that the child is the beauty of God present in the world, the greatest gift to a family.

Isaiah 49:16 reminds us of how unique and special we are to God who has carved us on the palm of his hand.

Pope Francis tells us that Baptism is the most beautiful and magnificent gift of God. We call it gift, grace, illumination, seal and everything most precious. It is the moment we are born as a child of God and receive the Holy Spirit.

Following the Baptism of a number of children in the Sistine Chapel, he affirmed to parents: *"Let children cry; it is a beautiful homily when children cry in church."*

1 Questions to consider

- 1) How do we 'celebrate' with each other?
(For example birthdays, christenings, gifts, talents, Christmas, Easter, anniversaries, various achievements and successes).
- 2) What can we remember about happy celebrations in our families?
- 3) What church celebrations do we enjoy?
(Mass, Baptisms, Weddings)
- 4) What celebrations do we enjoy and look forward to?
- 5) How can we celebrate being a special part of God's family? (Baptism, prayer, kindness)

2 Possible activities

- 1) Create a family tree with names of all persons in the family and show your special place in your family.
- 2) Dramatise (through role play) the joy of being loved and cared for in our families.
- 3) Plan a class act of worship celebrating some of the joys of being unique and special to God.