

'In the Night Garden' talk for Baptism (using Colossians 1:9-14)

*You need: 'In the Night Garden' toys in a bag – must include Iggle Piggle Theme tune for 'In the Night Garden'*

I've brought some friends along today, to help to celebrate [baby's] baptism.

I wonder if you can guess who is in this bag? Perhaps if I play a bit of music it will help...(play 'In the Night Garden' theme)

I've brought along Iggle Piggle and Upsy Daisy to help celebrate (give them to sibling/s and/or other children to look after). Do you remember what happens right at the beginning of 'In the Night Garden', and right at the end, as the music's playing? Iggle Piggle is in his little boat. And the boat sets off over the seas, with the light attached to the mast, journeying gently under the stars.

Believe it or not, there are lots of things about [baby's] baptism today that make me think of 'In the Night Garden'. First, as Iggle Piggle floats over the sea, there are all those lovely stars in the sky, stars that turn out to be all sorts of interesting things. Well [baby's] the star today. A whole new beautiful little person whose character and gifts are just beginning to emerge. Individually created by God, ready to grow and flourish in the world. A welcome addition to [parents/siblings] family. A gift to his/her godparents, who have the privilege of walking alongside him/her closely as s/he grows in faith.

But as well as being one of the stars, [baby's] also a bit like Iggle Piggle. Because s/he's setting off on a journey today. It's a very special kind of journey, because it's a journey with God. Today, through his/her baptism, [baby] will become one of God's people, a member of our church family, a disciple, that's a follower, of Jesus Christ.

[Baby's] journey starts, like Iggle Piggle, with water (you could pour out some water). Iggle Piggle's on the water in his boat – well [baby's] going to have some water poured over him/her...just as water was poured over Jesus at his baptism. For [baby], the water at his/her baptism represents a new start, being washed clean and beginning a new life with Jesus.

As well as pouring water over him/her, we'll also make the sign of the cross on [baby's] forehead – to show that s/he belongs to Christ. And having poured the water over him/her and signed him/her with the cross, finally we'll give [baby] a lighted candle. The lighted candle reminds us how baptism saves us from darkness, the darkness of death, and we journey in the light of Jesus' resurrection.

So just like Iggle Piggle, with the light on the mast of his boat, [baby's] going to have a light on his/her journey, the light of Christ, symbolised by the candle we'll give him/her.

So [baby], our own little star, is going on a journey, just like Iggle Piggle: -a journey with God - through water - guided by a light - the light of Christ.

A few moments ago [name] read us a passage from St Paul's letter to his fellow Christians in Colossae. St Paul was assuring his friends of his prayers and encouragement. [Parents and godparents names]: St Paul's prayers are our prayers for you today.

Like St Paul, we pray that [baby] has a life worthy of the Lord; bearing fruit in all sorts of ways. May s/he, with your guidance, grow continually in his knowledge of God. And like St Paul we pray that you will all be made strong in God's glorious power as you journey together in the light of Christ.

Amen.