

CONTENTS

BAPTISM

Jesus’ Baptism	2
Water, light and name	4
The beginning of a journey	6
Godparents	8
A sign of new life	10
Symbols of Baptism	12

CONFIRMATION

The Church – a community of disciples	14
Pentecost	16
The Spirit of Jesus alive in us	18
The role of the sponsor	20
The Ceremony	21
Celebrating Confirmation	22
Symbols of Confirmation	24



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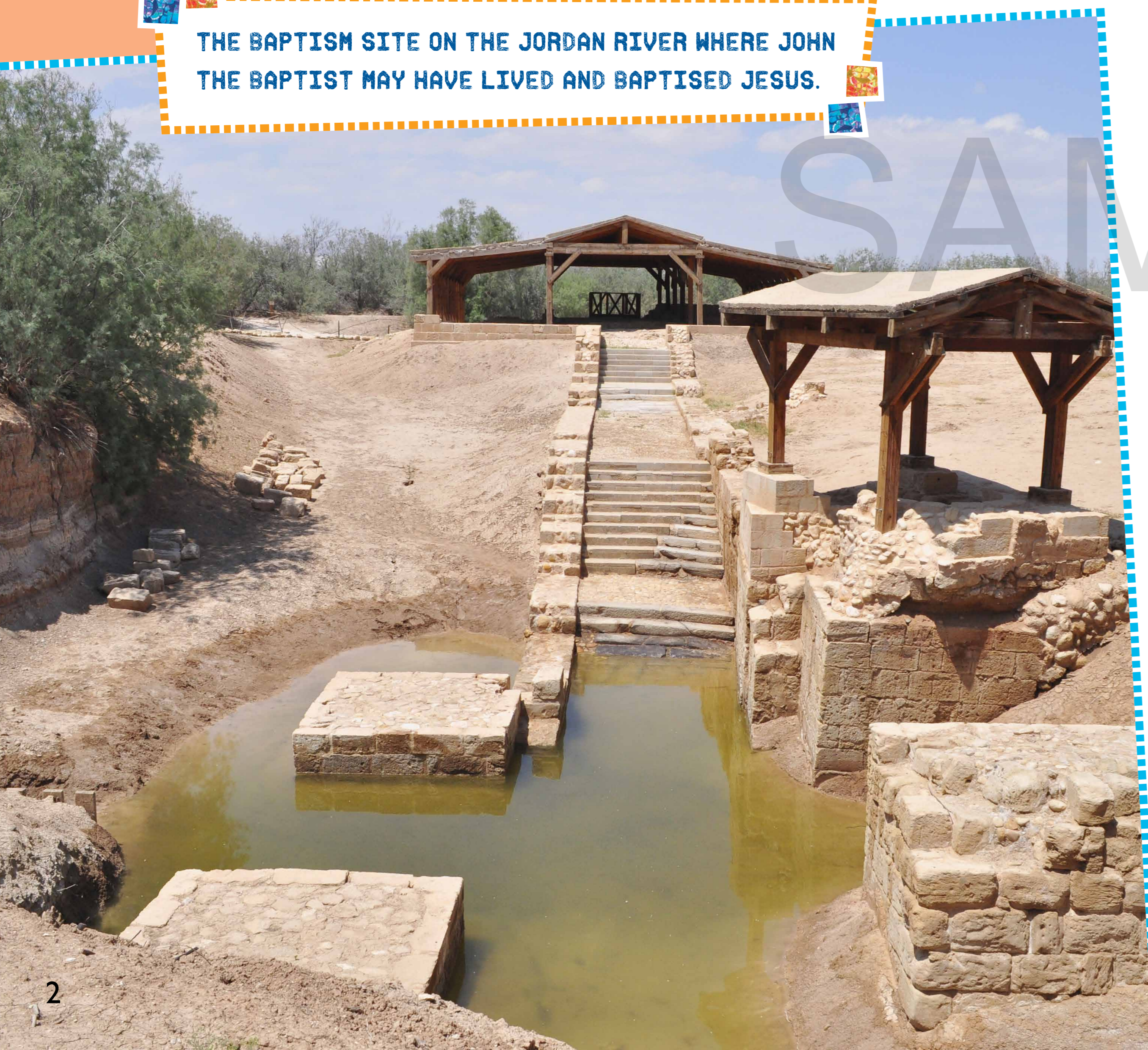
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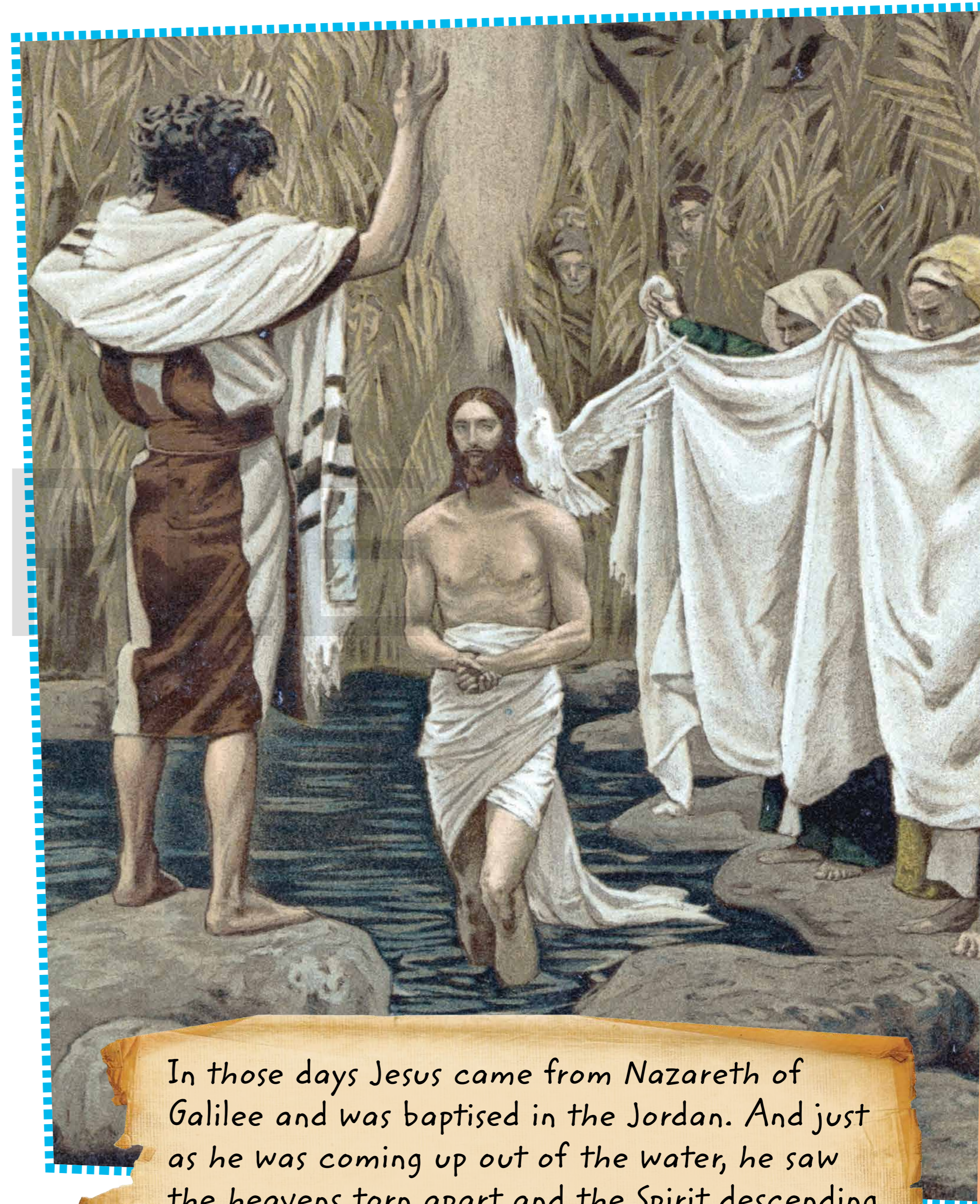
JESUS' BAPTISM

John the Baptist baptised people with water in the River Jordan. People who came to John and listened to him often changed their lives and made a fresh start. Water cleans and refreshes; when it is used at Baptism, it is a symbol of cleansing and “a fresh start”.

THE BAPTISM SITE ON THE JORDAN RIVER WHERE JOHN THE BAPTIST MAY HAVE LIVED AND BAPTISED JESUS.



St Mark tells the story of Jesus' Baptism.



In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “you are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:10–11)

QUESTIONS

Who baptised Jesus?

Where was Jesus baptised?

What is the symbol used in the story to describe the Spirit?

USING THE BIBLE

Read Mark 1:11

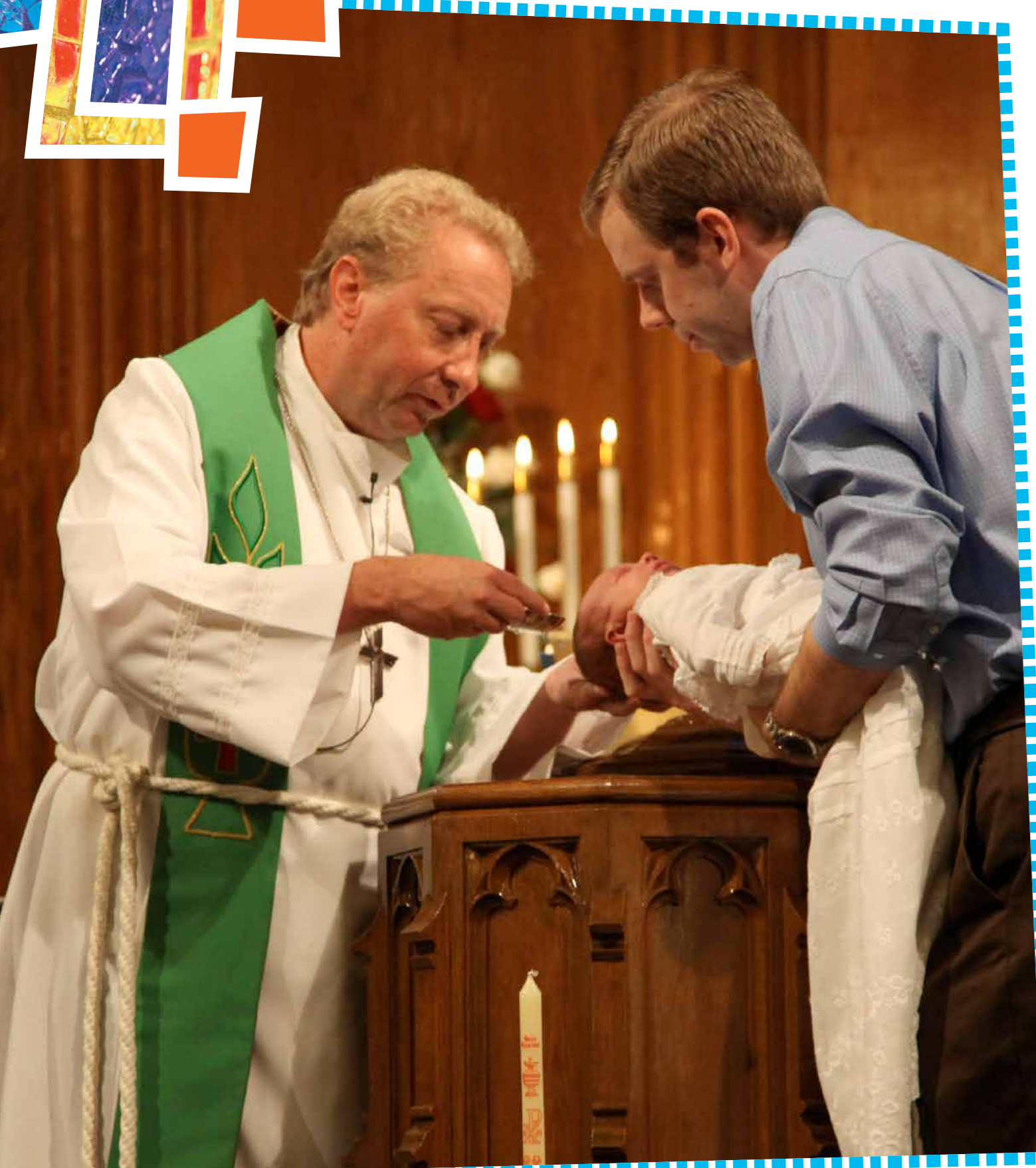
What were the words Jesus heard when he was baptised?

I wonder how Jesus might have felt when he heard these words.

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Go to pages 11 and 12 and complete Activities 1 and 2

WATER, LIGHT AND NAME



WATER

John the Baptist baptised people with water in the River Jordan. People who came to John and listened to him often changed their lives and made a fresh start. Water cleans and refreshes; when it is used at Baptism, it is a symbol of cleansing and “a fresh start”.

LIGHT

During the ceremony of Baptism, a baptismal candle is lit from the Easter (or Paschal) candle. Each year during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, the Paschal candle is blessed and lit from the Easter fire. It is then carried into the darkened Church and each person holds a candle which has been lit from this Easter candle.



When a child is baptised, we light the baptismal candle as a sign of the light of Christ in the life of the newly baptised person. Parents and godparents are reminded to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in their lives and in the life of the child being baptised.

NAME

At the Baptism of their child, one of the questions parents are asked is: “*What name have you given your child?*” The name chosen by the parents is the name by which their child will be known in the Christian community.

QUESTIONS

Why is water used as a symbol at Baptism?

Why do people get baptised?

When is the Paschal candle lit for the first time?

Why do we use lighted candles in our religious celebrations?

Why did your parents choose the name you have?

USING THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 28:18–20

What did Jesus ask his disciples to do for him?

What promise did Jesus make to his disciples?

Read Matthew 1:21

What does the name Jesus mean?

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Go to pages 15 and 16. Complete Activities 1 and 2.