



# Primary Collective Worship Resources

## Baptism: I have called you by your name; you are mine

### Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by introducing some music to create the mood. David Evans' "Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here", will work well. For young children, you only need to use the refrain, which can be repeated a couple of times:

"Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Come bow before him now in reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here."

In this session on belonging, you can talk about our experience of belonging. What kind of things do we belong to? What things belong to us? The aim of this session is to reflect on the concept of belonging to God. So we ask the question: What is it like to belong to a family?

### Step 2: What the Bible says

You now move to the sacred place for the Scripture-based part of the session. Suggested hymns are David Hass' "You are mine" based on Isaiah 49:15-16 or Bernadette Farrell's "You have called us by our name, we belong to you" (Isaiah 43:1-7).

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.  
You have called us by our name; we are yours.

Christians believe that God speaks to them through the words of the Bible, and they show this by treating it with great reverence. We read the Scripture as follows:

The reader picks up the book and, holding it up high reads a simplified version of the reading from Isaiah 43:1-7 reverently and clearly to the whole group:

The Lord says, I created you, I formed you,  
do not fear, for I have saved you;  
I have called you by your name, you are mine.  
When you pass through rivers,  
I will be with you and I will keep you safe.  
When you walk through fire, I will not let you be burned.  
For I am your God, the Holy One.  
You are precious in my sight and I love you.  
Do not be afraid, I am always with you.

The reader then says, "The Word of the Lord". The response is "Thanks be to God".

Tell the children a little bit about the passage they have just heard. Isaiah was a prophet, someone who was chosen by God to be his spokesperson to pass on important messages from God to the people. Isaiah told the people that they are precious to God and he is not going to let us go even when things are difficult.

In this session on belonging, we can refer to the story Jesus told about God as a gatekeeper and the people as the sheep. In this story, Jesus himself is the shepherd. He said: "The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." (John 10:2-3). When a child is baptised, the first thing the priest or deacon asks of his or her parents is "What name have you given this child?" Jesus was reminding us that God calls each of us by name. He used the story about the shepherd calling his sheep by name to help us understand.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that our names are sacred. Our name is a sign of our dignity; it stays with us forever (CCC 2158, 2159, 2167).



### Step 3: Our life experience

In this session we suggest the children each make a name tag. If they want to, they could use the design below which includes the Scripture passage from Isaiah: “God calls us by name; we are his” (Isaiah 43:1). By focusing on the idea that their names belong to them, the children can gain an appreciation of how Christians believe that God calls people by name and that we belong to God.

Let this part of the session be relaxed and fun. You might encourage conversation by asking the children why it is good to belong to our families, why do we want others to know our name and why do we want to know others’ names.

### Step 4: How God’s word affects our lives

The group can now relax and respond to what they have heard. Now is the time when they can put their name tags on. You might suggest that the children ask their parents why they chose their name, if they are named after someone or if their name has a special meaning. Ask them to share what they will tell their parents and siblings about the name tag and what they experienced in this session.



## Activity Sheet: Belonging

I have called you by your name,

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you are mine.

### To do:

- Cut this name tag out
- Use a hole punch to make the hole
- Pull a piece of string or ribbon through the hole
- Write your name on the card

### The refrains to sing:

1. Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Come bow before him now in reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground,  
be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
2. You have called us by our name, we belong to you.  
You have called us by our name; we are yours.

### Remember: the words of Isaiah 43:1-7

“But now the Lord says, I created you,  
I formed you, do not fear,  
for I have saved you;  
I have called you by your name, you are mine.”