

Gifts of Baptism Script

I wonder, is there anyone here that likes presents? Anyone who likes gifts? Today we're going to welcome *name(s)* into a new life in Christ through baptism. And there are some gifts of baptism.

I'm wondering, are there any people here, any small people, that would like to come forward and help me unwrap some gifts? Come forward. Come on down.

Okay, I'm going to need some friends near the yellow box. I'm going to need some friends near the purple box. And I'm going to need a few more friends at the red box. *(divide children among the three gifts for unwrapping)*

Is there anyone else who wants to come on down? *(allow stragglers to arrive)*

All right, my friends here at the yellow box. When I say go, you're going to rip it open. Ready? On your marks, get set, go. It's a box. Yeah. Keep going. Okay. And then, can I show you? Give it a tug. Right here. Right here. Big tug. Okay. What's in this box?

Child comments: "Nothing."

No, there's something. Something way down there. Let's see.

What did you find?

Children comment: "Pictures, pictures."

You see some of these pictures? Oh, what do you see? That's you. Imagine that. What do you see? Oh, so we found some pictures of us. We found some pictures of kids around our altar. Kids at communion around our altar. Can you be in charge of putting this in one of those stands?

What about this one? Who's in this picture? Do you remember when this was? *(describe your pictures)*

Some of the pictures are just us here in our church with our church family. But this picture was taken at the cathedral. A number of our kids went to the cathedral for Ash Wednesday. And who's this guy in purple? Do you remember who he is? He's the archbishop. So, he's the pastor for all the churches in our diocese.

Some of the kids in this picture are from this church community, but a lot of the kids in this picture came from other churches. Because when we're baptized, we become part of a family. A family in this church, but we also become part of a much bigger church family, a whole communion really. *(edit to describe your own church setting)* And if you do look up, do you see this window? Can everybody look up at that window? That window is a picture of the communion of saints. Because in baptism, you don't just join a small church family. You join followers of Jesus in every time throughout history. We are connected with people from all kinds of Christian churches, holy men and women and people of God throughout all time. So the first gift in baptism is a new family. Can you add this? *(add pictures to your display)*

Who are my friends that are going to help me with the purple box. Are you ready? Okay. On your marks, get set, go.

It's another box. Yeah. Okay. We've got to tug right here to open it. Tug. Tug. Tug. Pull. Good. There's something in there. There's something in there. Well, let's tip it. Let's tip it. Gently. Tip it. Shake a little bit. Okay, got it. Can you hold that up really high so everyone can see? What did we find? Who's this guy? Jesus. That's right. This kind of picture of Jesus is called an icon. And some people use these pictures of Jesus to help them pray. And another gift in our baptism is a new friend. A new friend in Jesus Christ, a new way of being. And some of the promises we make in baptism are to follow Jesus, to pay attention to his life and his teaching and to try to be like Jesus and to go out in the world and try to share the message of Jesus. So that's our next gift in baptism. Could we put it up there? We'll add that to our collection. *(add image of Jesus to the display)*

Okay, my friends with the red box. Are you ready? Okay, on your marks, get set, go. Another box. Okay, that's right. I need to show you a trick to open it. We're going to have to tip this one really gently. And then you're going to need to reach in gently and see what you find in this box.

Well, you got one thing. There's a couple of things in there. So, what did you find? Can you hold it up really high for all the people to see? What did you find?

A Bible. We find the stories of our faith, the good news in this gift. And where is the other piece? Where is the other piece? You think there's a glass? Well, let me open it and you reach in. And what can you pull out?

Can you lift it really high? Everybody out there wants to see, too. Does anyone know what we call these glasses? It's a chalice. In church, we call it a chalice. Do you know what goes in the chalice? Wine. And in some churches, grape juice.

Can you reach in and pull this pull this part out? And can you hold that up for everyone to see? It's a little plate. And in church, we call this a paten. And they go together like this. If you hold that really still. And this goes on top. *(place paten on top of the chalice)*

So we have wine and we have bread. Another gift in baptism is that we get a new faith, a new faith in God. These are the stories of our faith and we come together as the people of God to drink from the cup and to eat the bread in memory of Jesus and we come really close to God in that moment. And so, can you add these to our collection? Can you find a spot for them near our pictures? *(add chalice and paten to your display)*

That's good. That'll work. We have a spot for everything. And now it's just about time. It's just about time to help welcome *names(s)* into their new life in Christ. They're about to receive the gifts of baptism.