

Time Frozen

You will need

The Baptism of Christ

by Piero della Francesca

Activity 1



'Freeze' exactly as you are and try not to move for twenty seconds.

In this painting, the artist has 'frozen' the moment when Jesus was baptized. The clocks have stopped. No one is moving.

Look at the feet of the angels and Jesus. What do you notice about the leg muscles and the feet? Do they look as if they are about to move?

Write a poem using the title: 'When the Clocks Stopped'.
The first line should make a statement about one person in the painting.
The second line should describe what they are doing.
The third line should comment on it.

When the Clocks Stopped

*A dove watches from above,
Still and stiff,
As if it were a statue.*

LOUISE CURLEY

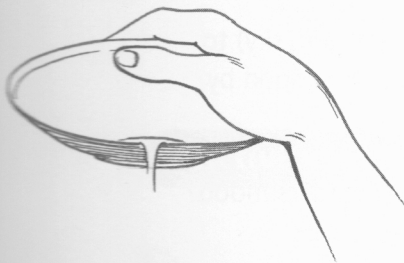


Activity 2

People were baptized by John the Baptist when they were sorry for what they had done wrong.

Read/listen to the story of the baptism of Jesus. Being baptized is about starting again. List John's advice to people who wanted to be baptized.

People are still baptized today. In some churches, they have a small amount of water poured over them. In others, they are dipped under the water. How is Jesus baptized in this painting? Is the method of baptism the same as in the story?



Christian Belief

The artist has 'frozen' an important moment for Christians: it is the moment when Jesus was baptized. Christians believe Jesus had done no wrong. He was baptized to show he stood by humanity whatever they had done.