

Baptising (How and Why): NVQ Level 2 Refresher Course

Two course attendees helpfully explain the how and why of adult full submersion baptism.

Matthew 3: 13-17; Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:12; Acts 8: 36-38.

Have the course title up on the big screen. Walk out on to stage, Person1 towel drying wet hair.

Both sit down.

Person1: Why do I always get volunteered?

Person2: Because you're the smallest

Person1: It was me yesterday, me today, me on the course last year...

Person2: At least that's the practical over. Are you ready for the theory?

Person1: Test me.

Person2: *(reads from mock test paper)* Name the three "don'ts" of clothing recommendations.

Person1: Don't wear a big woolly jumper; don't forget to take your watch off; don't wear dark underwear beneath white clothes

Person2: They only thought to add that one in because of you.

Person1: Don't remind me! No-one knew where to look! I've never seen so many people suddenly interested in cloud formations or the state of their shoes...

Person2: Question 2 – what are the Biblical precedents for full adult baptism?

Person1: Jesus got baptised by John; Jesus told his followers to go make disciples and baptise them; then that's what they went and did. For example, Philip dunked that Ethiopian official

Person2: You can't say dunked! Baptism candidates are not rich tea biscuits

Person1: Just as well, cos they'd get soggy, and bits would drop off leaving a mushy mess at the bottom of the baptism pool

Person2: Reasons why it's just as well baptism candidates are not rich tea biscuits isn't on the syllabus! I will ask you another question that is... What are the symbolic representations within the baptism ceremony?

Person1: Being raised from being spiritually dead, like, when you're not in a relationship with God your spirit is dead inside you, but then you are raised from that death, into being spiritually alive; and having all sin washed away.

Person2: What factors need to be considered in a risk assessment for outdoor baptisms?

Person1: Dangerous under-currents; the tide; crocodile attacks

Person2: Crocodile attacks? In Boscombe?

Person1: I'm doing the international module for missionaries and overseas workers.

Person2: How can you confirm if a candidate is ready to be baptised?

Person1: You need to talk to them to make sure that they believe Jesus is the Son of God and they've asked for his forgiveness and invited him to be Lord of their life. You know, that they understand that you become a Christian first, then afterwards get baptised as a public declaration of that faith and conversion.

Person2: That's a very good answer. Anything to add to that?

Person1: Yeah, you also need to check they're not wearing dark underwear under their whites....