# The Baptism of Jesus through global art - discussion questions

## Asia - China

- Have a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- Look closely at the right side of the painting. There is a Maple tree with red leaves. In ancient Chinese culture, a maple tree is sign that someone has risen to a higher authority/status. Why do you think the artist added a Maple tree to their painting?
- Why has the artist painted a dove above Jesus's head?
- Why do you think the artist has chosen to paint the scene as if it were taking place in their country and in their time?

## Africa - Cameroon

- Have a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- How different is this painting to the one we have just seen?
- Look carefully at the faces of the people gathered on the river bank. What might they be thinking and feeling?
- Why do you think the artist has painted Jesus wearing a red garment? What might that colour symbolise?
- Why do you think the artist has chosen to paint the scene as if it were taking place in their country and in their time?

## Americas - Brazil

- Look closely at the painting. What can you see?
- The artist has chosen to make a big feature of the dove and the light surrounding it. Why do you think they have done this?
- The artist has chosen to use the same blue for the water and sky. What is the effect and why do you think they chose to do this?
- Do you like this painting? If so, why?

*In Christianity, water is a sign of cleansing and new life. This is seen clearly in baptism where water symbolizes the washing away of sin and the beginning of a new life as a Christian and member of a global Church family.*

## Europe - Ukraine

- Have a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- This type of painting is called an icon. Icons are painted as a type of prayer, and they are intended to be an aid to prayer too. How might this icon help us to pray?
- In icons of the Baptism of Jesus, angels are added to the scene. Why do you think this is so? What might they represent?
- The use of colour in icons is very important as they are used as signs. Do you like how the colours are used in this icon? What do you think the blue and red signify?

*Blue is a sign of holiness; red is a sign of life, love, and sacrifice.*

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.
Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1056651

**North America - Georgia, USA**

- Have a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- The landscape in the painting doesn't look like the sandy and dry landscape of the Jordan. Instead the artist, who lived in the USA, chose to paint the hills, trees, and plants that surrounded him. He also based the figures in the painting on people he knew from his community. Why do you think the artist chose to do this?
- Look closely at John the Baptist. His hand is pointing to the dove. Why do you think the artist chose to do this?
- Do you like this painting? If so, why?

Mission Together supports children living in poverty and turmoil around the world – regardless of their background or belief. With your help we provide education, children's homes, nutrition programmes, health care, and more. Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. You can find simple ways to fundraise throughout the year by visiting our webpage missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/

**Springtime Scavenger hunt:** this is a great outdoor activity. Print off some sheets with springtime things to spot e.g. Snowdrops or crocus, tree buds, birdsong and birds nesting, cherry blossom. You can tailor the items to whatever suits your space and environment. Charge pupils to enter. Either get pupils to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

**Valentines biscuits:** showcase your bake-off skills! Bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around valentines day. You could even ice on the names of the recipient and deliver them anonymously for a delivery fee!

**Pancake races:** hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!