

JOHN SMYTH

BAPTIST TRAILBLAZER



Questions for Conversation

- Why is John Smyth called a “trailblazer”?
- What does it mean to “blaze a trail” for others?
- John Smyth showed courage by advocating for believer’s baptism. What is that, and why was it important to him?
- John Smyth and his followers had to leave England because of their beliefs. What is religious freedom and why do you think people should have the right to worship the way they believe?
- How would you feel if you weren’t allowed to worship the way you wanted?
- John Smyth helped start the first Baptist church. What do you think it was like for him and his followers to start something new?
- Have you ever had to start something new that was hard?
- Can you think of a time when standing up for something was difficult but important?
- What can we learn from John Smyth about following our beliefs even when it’s hard?
- How can you stand up for what you believe is right, even if it’s not popular?

Suggested Activities

Baptism Symbol Craft: Provide clay or Play-Doh and let students mold symbols of baptism (such as a cross or a water droplet). Talk about what baptism means and why it was important to John Smyth.

Baptism Discussion Circle: Create a discussion circle where students share their thoughts on baptism. Encourage them to ask questions and discuss what makes baptism an important part of their faith.

Church Leadership Role-Play: Assign students roles as church leaders. One student presents a new idea for the church, and the others respond with different perspectives—some positive, some hesitant. Together, they discuss and work through their differences, emphasizing teamwork and faith, similar to how John Smyth’s courageous community worked together to start a new church.