

# Use of 'The Lion King' in a Baptism service

## Summary



The first part of the Disney film 'The Lion King' shows the animals gathering to celebrate the birth of Simba, a lion cub who is to be the future 'King'. He is anointed by the priestly figure of a baboon who makes a mark on his head with water (derived from a coconut.) The cub is held up and all the animals bow down. A ray of light from the heavens shines down on the lion cub. All this happens to the Elton John/Tim Rice song 'Circle of Life'

## Lyrics



From the day we arrive on the planet  
And blinking, step into the Sun  
There's more to be seen than can ever be seen  
More to do than can ever be done

Some say eat or be eaten  
Some say live and let live  
But all are agreed as they join the stampede  
You should never take more than you give

In the circle of life  
It's the wheel of fortune  
It's the leap of faith  
It's the band of hope  
Till we find our place  
On the path unwinding  
In the circle, the circle of life

Some of us fall by the wayside  
And some of us soar to the stars  
And some of us sail through our troubles  
And some have to live with the scars

There's far too much to take in here  
More to find than can ever be found  
But the Sun rolling high through the sapphire sky  
Keeps great and small on the endless round

In the circle of life  
It's the wheel of fortune  
It's the leap of faith  
It's the band of hope  
Till we find our place  
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**Film Clip to use** – from the beginning of the film to the Lion King title appearing.

## Thoughts on how to use it



- At the beginning of the service as an introduction to what happens in a baptism.
- Particularly useful if there are other children present.
- Get the children to see how many different animals they can spot and shout them out after the clip
- All the animals gather – *'it's an important baby. We've gathered for our important baby.'*

- Draw attention to what the baboon does. *'The baboon makes a mark with liquid on the baby's head did you notice that. Later on I'm going to do that to little nnn here. It's a sign of belonging.'*
- Draw attention to what happens next *'And then the baboon holds the baby up – and what happens then?'*

*Yes all the animals bow down before the new baby. A little Lion Cub and all those big animals bowing down in front of him – the elephants, the giraffes, the zebras, all bowing down before the baby.*

*It must be an important baby! It's a baby that's going to be a King!*

*Something similar happen a long time ago in another country. Another very important baby was born in Israel 2000 years ago. And it's because of that baby, whose name was Jesus, that we are all here today to welcome today's most important baby into the life of Jesus' church.'*

## Build it into the Baptism itself

Have people form 'circles of life' around the baby



- Small circle with the parents (and grandparents perhaps) and god parents.
- Larger circle with the members and adherents of the church;
- Largest circle of friends and visitors.

All can make appropriate promises for the baby

## Other possibilities

Some of the lyrics of the song offer possibilities for expansion/ theological reflection e.g.



Some say eat or be eaten  
Some say live and let live  
But all are agreed as they join the stampede  
You should never take more than you give

There's far too much to take in here  
More to find than can ever be found

It's the leap of faith  
It's the band of hope  
Till we find our place

Some of us fall by the wayside  
And some of us soar to the stars  
And some of us sail through our troubles  
And some have to live with the scars



## Important!

You will need to ensure that copyright issues are cleared. CCLI licences can include the use of a wide range of film clips.