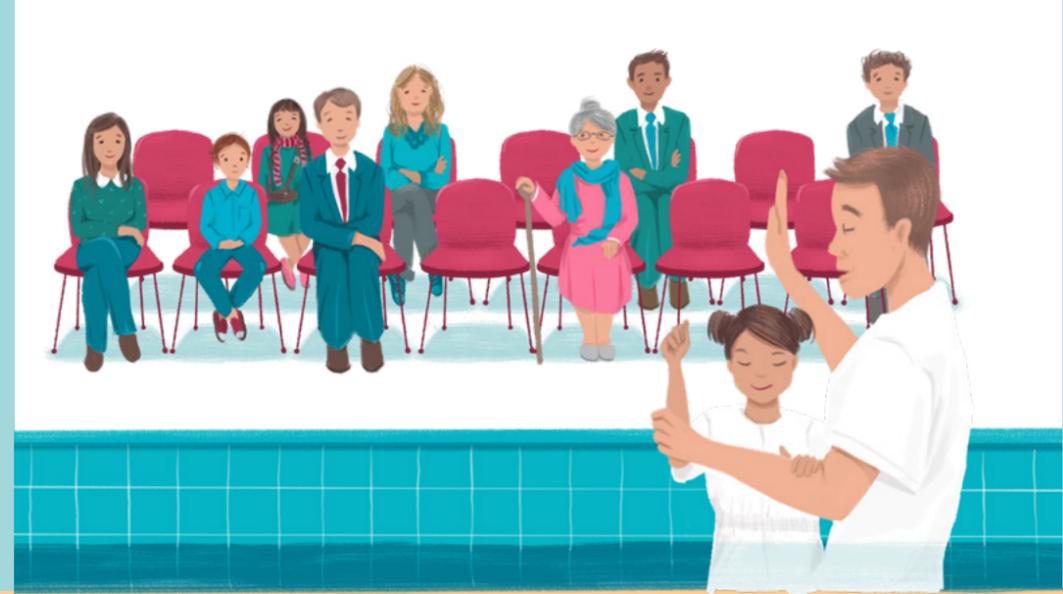




# Just Like She Imagined



**By Charlotte Larcabal**  
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(Based on a true story)

*“Stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” (Mosiah 18:9).*

Today was Kvitka’s baptism day.

She had been thinking about this day for a long time. She had imagined it all. Wearing a special white dress. *Tato* (Dad) baptizing her. And all her friends and family there, smiling proudly.

But today was going to be a bit different than Kvitka had imagined.

Some things were the same. She was wearing a special white dress, just like she imagined. *Babusya* (Grandma) had sewn this dress for Mama to be baptized in when she was young. And now it was Kvitka’s turn.

*Tato* was going to baptize her. Just like she had imagined. Kvitka watched him dip his hand into the water in the font.

“Nice and warm,” he said. He smiled at Kvitka. She

smiled back. Then she looked at the chairs that she had helped *Tato* set up.

There weren’t many. That was the biggest difference. Kvitka had always imagined that many people would come to her baptism. But there would only be a few.

Ever since COVID-19 had started making people sick, many things were different. She and her little brother, *Vlas*, had school at home. They wore masks when they left their apartment. And nobody met in big groups. Not anywhere. Kvitka wanted to help keep people safe, but sometimes it was hard.

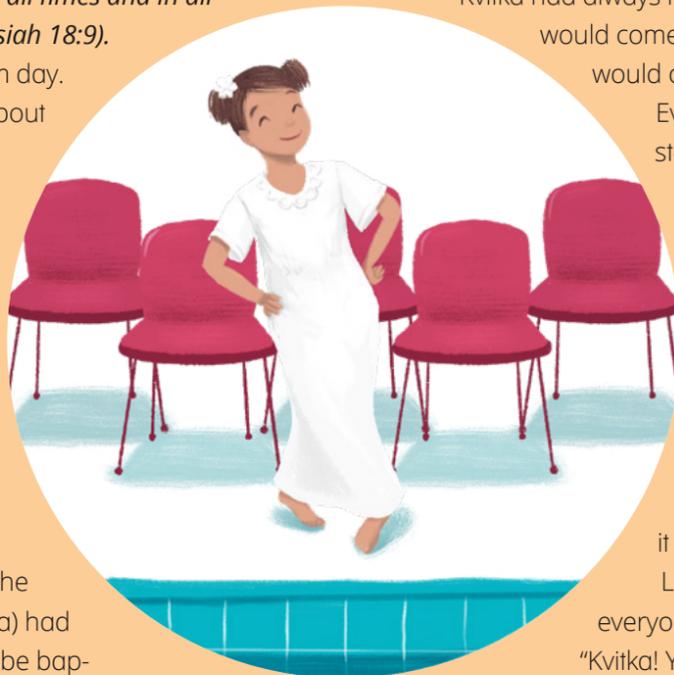
Like when you couldn’t invite everyone to your baptism.

“Kvitka! You look beautiful!”

Kvitka looked up to see *Babusya* walking through the door.

“Hi, *Babusya*!” Kvitka hopped off her chair and ran over.

“You look just like your mama did,” *Babusya* said. She touched the white flowers in Kvitka’s hair. They matched



the lace flowers on her dress. Kvitka liked flowers. Her name meant “flower” in Ukrainian.

“Are you excited to get baptized?” *Babusya* asked.

“Yes,” Kvitka said. “Only, nobody is here.”

“Nobody!” *Babusya* said. She looked around. “But I see Mama, *Tato*, *Vlas*, and little *Melania*. And there’s the bishop. And even two missionaries. That’s not nobody.”

Kvitka shrugged. “But none of my friends are here.”

“That must make you sad,” *Babusya* said. “But we do have two surprise guests.”

Kvitka perked up. “Who?”

“Your aunt *Pavlina*,” *Babusya* said. “And your cousin *Emma*!”

“Really?” Kvitka asked eagerly.

*Babusya* smiled. “When they get here, will you do me a favor?”

Kvitka nodded. “What?”

“Well, when you get baptized, one thing you promise is to stand as a witness of Jesus Christ. Do you know what that means?”

Kvitka did know. Her family had been studying baptismal covenants for weeks!

“It means to be a missionary!”

“Very good,” *Babusya* said. “Your aunt and cousin have never been in one of our Church buildings before. Will you be a missionary and help give them a tour?”

“Yes!” Kvitka said.

◆ See *Come, Follow Me* for Doctrine and Covenants 60–62 and 67–70.

When Aunt *Pavlina* and *Emma* arrived, Kvitka and *Babusya* did just that. They showed them the Primary room, her classroom, and the chapel. Then they came to the baptismal font. Kvitka told them she wanted to be baptized to follow Jesus Christ. She felt a light, comforting feeling as she spoke. Aunt *Pavlina* and *Emma* smiled at her. She hoped they felt the same feeling.

Soon it was time for the baptism. Kvitka held her breath as *Tato* dipped her all the way under the water—just like she had imagined. There may have only been a few people watching, but they were smiling just like she had imagined. And she was sure Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were smiling down at her too. That was easy to imagine. ●

*This story took place in Kyiv, Ukraine.*

## NAMES AND MEANINGS

*Kvitka* means “flower” in Ukrainian. Do you know what your name means? Ask a parent or grandparent to help you learn about your name.

You can also learn about Jesus Christ’s many names—Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and more. What names can you think of that we use for Jesus?

