

REFLECTION IDEAS

Christmas – The Gift

Luke chapter 2 verses 1 – 20 and Matthew chapter 1 verse 18 – chapter 2 verse 12

This Christmas presentation looks at the Christmas story and the Christian belief that Jesus was given by God as a gift for the whole world. God's gift came to us in humble wrapping – just like the assembly sketch where the gift is in a tatty old bag. As the storyteller in the assembly found out, Jesus was not born in a palace to rich parents, not to a princess nor a knight. Instead he was born in a stable and laid in a feeding trough, with no town crier to announce the birth. However, Christians believe he is a king, the son of God and angels announced his birth.

Reflection

- What is the best present you have ever received? What made it so special?
- Why might Christians view Jesus as a present? (It might be useful to look at John chapter 3 verse 16 (CEV): 'God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.')
- Think about the humble way in which Jesus was born. Who did God send his son to live with? Who did the angels tell about Jesus' birth?

Links

Versions of the bible story can be found here: <https://youtu.be/XkEypzmHwCI> youtu.be/FrTFAZPQxpE.

Please check they are suitable for your group.

For a different take on the Christmas story for older children: www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk

A link to the GenR8 Reflect video 'Gifts' can be found here: [Reflect Videos – GenR8](#)

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Christmas Thanks

Equipment

Paper, pens, craft materials

Description



Christmas is a time when many people give each other gifts and presents. It is also a time when people see their family and friends, get together and celebrate!

Christmas is also a time to be thankful. To think about the year that is ending and the year ahead. Think about three things are you thankful for that have happened since last Christmas. Maybe taking part in a show or sporting event, someone new joining your family, making new friends, a great party or day out, trying something new, or anything else that was good.

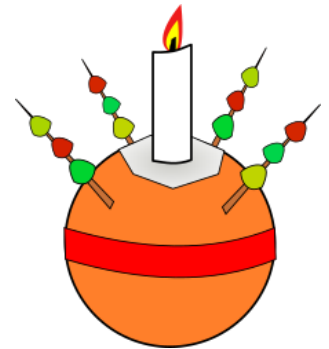
If you want to, you can write these three things onto a Christmas bauble (you can make one out of craft materials if you don't have one you can write on!). You could then hang the bauble on a tree as a reminder to give thanks for these things as well as God's gift of Jesus for the whole world.

Make your own Christingle

In the Christmas quiz at the start of the assembly the quizmaster has a Christingle.

The Christingle uses everyday items to remind Christians of the gifts that God gives us.

- an orange symbolises the world.
- fruit and sweets - the good things that God gives to us. On the Christingle the sweets and raisins on the 4 cocktail sticks to symbolise the good things God gives us during the 4 seasons of the year.
- a candle symbolising Jesus as the light of the world - the light shining in the darkness to help people to see.
- the red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Jesus. Christians believe that God gave us a great gift because he loves us, by sending us his son, Jesus, to die so that we can be forgiven for all the wrong things we do.



You might like to reflect on the gifts symbolised in the Christingle: the world, food, the seasons, people who help us and make our lives brighter, and Jesus who can bring us closer to God. Find out more here:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise-and-events/christingle/what-is-christingle>

Wordsearch

Find the items from the puppet sketch. Can you remember which ones are in the first Christmas story?

angel
gift
Father Christmas
hay
mince pie
reindeer
sheep
snowman
star
stocking
toy
tree



There are some more fun resources here: <https://www.whychristmas.com/story/>

In the assembly there is a present cube that reminds us of Jesus as a present to the whole world but also that Jesus did not remain a baby and became a man and that Christians believe he died on a cross and that was part of God's plan to save the world.

Use the instructions below to make a cube to retell the story of the first Christmas.

Nativity Story cube

① Jesus is the light of the world

② Star of Bethlehem

③ 3 wis men

④ Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus

⑤ Shepherd

⑥ Angel

* Colour in and cut out the net.

* glue together to make a cube, using the tabs to help

* Roll the cube and talk about the part of the story that lands face up!

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