

3. Christmas

Resources: Memory stick with PowerPoint and associated files, song CD, laptop (check cable), projector (check 2 cables), extension lead, 3 scripts, Big Bible with story script inside, Music stand

Passage: **Isaiah 9; Matthew 6.19-21**

Theme: **Christians believe Jesus is the light of the world, and we can light up people's lives like he did.**

Set Up: Picture of Christmas Lights on the screen.

Person 1: Intro / Quiz

Person 2: Story / Prayer

Person 3: Talk / Isaiah (in intro)

Intro:

Hello [name of School], we are so pleased to be back with you again! We're the Christ Church Schools' Team, I am _____, and this is _____ [Intro team].

I want you to imagine yourself in one of these situations:

You are fast asleep in bed, and you suddenly wake up in the middle of the night and it is pitch black.

OR

You are walking through the woods, and it suddenly becomes really dark, and you are struggling to see the path ahead.

In the situation that you are imagining yourself in, how are you feeling? Put your hand up if you would like to share how you are feeling. [Take responses from the children.]

I can sometimes feel scared when I am in the dark. What would help me not to feel scared? [Take responses from children] Yes, something that is going to bring light into the darkness.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. However, hundreds of years before his birth, a man called Isaiah gave a message from God, that a light was coming into the world – a light that would bring joy and peace to people – but this light would be a baby boy! This is what Isaiah said:

Isaiah (read from Big Bible)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.
God, you have made them happy.
You have put a stop to slavery and war.
A child is born to us! A son is given to us!
And he will be our king.

Interactive Story:

[Put Big Bible on music stand so both hands are free, but please do learn the script.]

You are all going to be part of today's Bible story. As we tell our story from the Bible there are going to be three words that you need to listen out for. When you hear them there is an action for you to do. The three words you need to listen out for are:

- Wise (swipe thumb across forehead)
- Star (mime twinkling stars)
- King (place a crown on your head)

[three words appear on screen as you say them.]

Let's practise them. [Say each word, wise, star and king and children do actions.] Well done, so keep listening for the three words and let's hear today's Bible Story.

[Other members of team to stand either side and do the word actions. As you read the story remember to pause after each bold word to allow the children to do the action.]

There were once some **wise** men who lived far away in the East. One evening the **wise** men saw a beautiful shining **star** in the night sky. The **wise** men knew this **star** was special. The **star** was so special, that its appearance in the night sky meant a **king** had been born.

So, the **wise** men decided to follow the **star** and find the new born **king**. The **wise** men travelled for many days, over mountains and over deserts. But no matter what, they always followed the bright **star** in the sky.

When the **wise** men arrived in Jerusalem they asked, "where do we find the new born **King**? We have followed his **star** and have come to worship him." When **King** Herod heard about this he was upset. Herod asked the teachers of the law where this new **king** was to be born and they said in Bethlehem.

He called for the **wise** men to come and see him and told the **wise** men that the new **king** was to be born in Bethlehem. The **wise** men set off to find the new born **King** and once again the **star** went ahead of them.

The **star** finally stopped over the place where the new **king** had been born. The **wise** men went into the house, knelt down and worshipped the new **king**.

Talk

One of my things about Christmas is the Christmas lights, as they bring joy to the dark winter nights. In the Bible, 800 years before Jesus was born, a man called Isaiah spoke about a baby boy, who would bring light, to give joy and peace to people who lived in darkness and sadness. A king would be sent from God as a baby boy, and he would bring light in dark times.

In our Bible story the wise men are led from the east by a star to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. And they are so happy!

The Bible says that Jesus who was born in Bethlehem - grew up to bring joy to lots of people. He once said, 'I am the light of the world'. He healed the sick. He fed 5000 people with 5 loaves and two fish. He gave sight to the blind. He even brought back to life people who had died. He said we should share and be fair, and he had very strong words to say to powerful people who didn't care about others. He spoke about being people of peace. He said that we should love other people like we want to be loved – not just love our friends but our enemies too! Many people still follow Jesus today, believing that they can bring peace and joy to the world like Jesus did.

Sometimes we might feel that the world is quite a sad and scary place. Maybe things on the news worry us, or maybe someone gets sick, or someone is mean to us. Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, even in those darkest, saddest times. Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, and we can light up people's lives like he did.

Can I give us all one challenge for December? Every time we talk to someone – whether it is buying sweets at the shop, or opening a present on Christmas Day, or playing with a friend – see if we can light up their life. Could we leave people happier than they were before they talked to us? Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, and we can light up people's lives like he did.

Song: Now that Christmas is here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDdQu15ecmw>

Questions

We've got a little quiz for you now, so put your hand up if you think you know the answer:

1. What did Isaiah say would bring light to the world? [A baby boy/king]
2. How did the wise men feel when they saw the star leading them to the place where Jesus had been born? [Happy!]
3. What do Christians believe we can learn from our Bible story? [Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, and we can light up people's lives like he did]

Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. Before I do that, let's spend a moment thinking about what this assembly means for us.. As we pause, why don't you think about how you can light up someone's life. You may want to close your eyes, so you are not distracted or focus on the candle on the screen. If you want to agree with my prayer, you can say 'amen' at the end with me....

[flickering candle on PowerPoint – wait for a minute]

Dear God, thank you so much for school. Thank you that we have learnt from what Jesus said - that Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, and we can light up people's lives like he did. Help us to light up people's lives this Christmas. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you for having us today. We hope that you have a lovely Christmas, and we will see you in January.

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Schools
team