

Discover Christmas

Workshop

Items needed for lesson

- Christmas story video
- Powerpoint
- Discover Christmas maps & Jesus stickers/paper to stick on (if you aren't able to print out a map for every child you could get them to create their own map as you do each activity by drawing the shapes needed).

Explain that today we are thinking about Christmas and in particular what Christians believe about Christmas.

Start by watching the video of the Nativity story (17 mins long). There are couple of things for you to do with the children during the video like answer questions, come up with an action for 'journey' & encourage them to keep doing it whenever journeying is mentioned and think of the animals that might have been in the stable (and see if you can make the noises that those animals would make). When watching the video It's obvious where you need to do these things and how long you will have.

Part 1 *(slide 1)*

In order to understand why the Christmas story happened, we need to go right back to the beginning. Can you remember what was being made at the start of the video?

(slide 2) Christians believe that God made the world and everything in it. At first everything was very good, but then people started to sin – this means that they started to do bad things, things that were wrong, things that started to destroy the world. And God saw all of these problems and this made him sad for the world that he loved.

We are going to think about this more. *(slide 3)* There are some pictures and words on the screen, these are some of things that God saw in the world that were good and some of the things that he saw that were bad.

Work together the person next to you to see if you can figure out which ones were good and which ones God would have been sad about.

Give children a chance to chat about it in their pairs and then feedback and decide as a class which are good/bad.

Even though there were things in the world that made God sad, God didn't want to give up on the world. He wanted to bring people closer to Him and He wanted to help save and rescue the world from all the bad and sad things.

Who likes super heroes? What superpowers do these superheroes use to rescue people? *(slides 4-6)*

- The Hulk (strength)
- Spiderman (strength, ability to cling to surfaces and have a sense of his surroundings, shooting webs)
- Superman (flying skills, x-ray vision, super speed, invincible, ice breath, strength)

Superheroes are great but they aren't real people and they couldn't actually rescue the world if we needed them.

Christians believe that God wanted to send a **real person** who would be like us, who would live on the earth and experience good times and bad times but most importantly, someone who was so special they could show the world how much God loved them.

Does anybody know who God sent? God sent his son, Jesus *(slide 7)*. He would rescue the world. Why? Because he loved the world.

Give each pupil a Discover Christmas map and ask them to colour in the bauble like a world (example on slide 8) and then they can stick on the piece of paper that says 'Jesus' over the world. Remind them that Christians believe that God loved the world which is why he sent Jesus.

Part 2 *(slide 9)*

At different points of our day we will feel different emotions. Sometimes we may feel happy, sad, surprised, angry, confident or many other things. I wonder if you could show me what it looks like when you feel these different emotions.

Play 'jump around as...'. Get the children to stand up and face the back, you then tell them an emotion (happy, sad, surprised etc) count down from 3. The children then have to jump around to face the front and show that emotion using their face and their bodies (no sound). You could get the children to pick some of the emotions.

So we thought about how Christians believe God created the world and he wanted to send Jesus. Can you remember what the first part of the Christmas story was?

(slide 10) God sent an Angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby, a baby that was going to be the saviour of the world. God's son was going to save the world-he was Jesus.

How would Mary have felt?

Colour in the face on the map that shows how you think Mary would have felt.

Draw how you would have felt in the last face.

We are now going to do a quiz to see how much you can remember from the story *(questions and answers on the powerpoint) (slide 11).*

What was the angel called that talked to Mary? Gabriel

What town was the baby born in? Bethlehem

Why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem? To sign a census

What did they call the baby? Jesus

What does the name Jesus mean? The Lord saves (God saves)

Part 3 *(slide 12)*

The next part of the Christmas story is all about good news, can you think of an example of good news?

If you had good news, who would you want to tell this good news to?

Think about who you would want to tell good news to and draw this person on the phone that is on your map

Give them time to draw the person on the map & then get some feedback.

Why would you tell those people?

God wanted to tell people the good news about sending Jesus. I wonder who he would tell this good news to first. I will give you some clues... *(slide 13)*

- These people probably would have smelt quite bad
- They didn't have much money
- They weren't very popular people
- They spent a lot of time with animals, one animal in particular.

Who was it that heard the good news first? The Shepherds. *(slide 14)*

So baby Jesus was born and now God wanted people to know about him. I wonder how he told the shepherds, can you remember?

He sent a whole chorus of Angels to some nearby Shepherds to tell them the news. The Good news – that their saviour, the one who was going to save them, Jesus had been born.

But God wanted everyone to know about his rescue plan so the Shepherds weren't the only people He told...

Part 4 *(slide 15)*

If you wanted to give a gift to a special baby what would you want to give them?

Can you remember who else came to visit Jesus? The wise men *(slide 16)*. They had heard from the bible long ago that a King would be born in Bethlehem and a star would show them that this King had been born. So they followed the star, first they went to King Herod, was Herod happy that there was another King in town? No he wasn't happy at all! But eventually the wise men found their way to Jesus. And they bought him gifts. Did they bring Jesus any of these things? *(slide 17)* No, can anyone remember what their gifts were?

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

Why do you think they brought those gifts? *(slide 18)* *(There are some symbols on the powerpoint to represent the reasons for giving each gift to Jesus and you could get the children to do an action for each one to help them remember it).*

- Gold is a gift worthy of a **King** and Christians believe Jesus is a **King** *(pretend to put a crown on)*
- Frankincense is used in worship and Christians worship Jesus because they **love** him *(put your hands over your heart)*
- Myrrh is something they used to put on people who had died (to help them not smell so bad!) and part of God's rescue plan was for Jesus to **die on a cross**. *(make a cross shape)*

Ask the children to draw the correct symbol in the correct gift box on the map.

The wise men gave gifts to Jesus to show that he was special and they show us what Christians believe about him *(see if the children can remember the reasons for the gifts).*

Part 5 – Light of the World. *(slide 19)*

Christians believe Jesus was God's greatest gift to the world. Did Jesus stay as a baby? He grew up to be a man who had lots of people who wanted to listen to him and follow him.

(slide 20) What is this? What does it do? Candles help to light up darkness. Christians believe Jesus brought light into the world and to all the dark things.

Christians believe that Jesus brought light with his love and by making a way for people to be friends with God again.

(slide 21) The bible tells Christians that when Jesus was about 33 he was killed on a cross, Christians believe that he was killed on a cross to take the punishment for all the bad things people have done, he was God's rescue plan.

(slide 22) 3 days later he came back to life and then later went up to heaven. Christians believe that this makes a way for them to be friends with God.

Christian's believe that Jesus is still alive today, that he loves and cares for people and he doesn't want them to live in darkness and the bad things of the world, he wants them to follow him, to have hope in him and live in his light as He is the light of the world. *(slide 23)*

Jesus grew up to serve, to love and to help people, he was a King but he was a servant King.

You remember in the video you watched it talked about how darkness started to come over the world, that darkness was all the things that we do wrong, Christians believe that God sent Jesus to light up that darkness.

So for Christians Christmas is all about God's love and Jesus' light, but we can also show love at Christmas too and we can also be a light in our world.

Who can you shine a light to this Christmas? Is there someone in your life who may need help or someone who you could show kindness and light to? *Give them an example or two of what that might look like – there are some examples on the powerpoint (slide 24)*

Think of that person and draw them on your map. Once you have finished this, pick one of things that you could do to shine your light to them this Christmas and write it in the last bauble.