

The Rock, Sunday 20th December 2020

Christmas

To start

Equipment

Paper and pens. Scissors.

Ask the children to list all the Christmas songs they can think of in 2 minutes. (They should be able to come up with a lot, ranging from Little Donkey to I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day.)

Write two titles: "About Jesus" and "Nothing to do with Jesus!" on two sheets of paper. Put one at each side of the room.

Get the group to cut their lists out so that each title appears on a separate scrap of paper. Ask them to put the titles on either the "About Jesus" or the "Nothing to do with Jesus" side.

Ask if they know why we celebrate Christmas. (Because of Jesus being born.) Then ask them why they think we have so many songs that have nothing to do with Jesus. Make the point that some people who don't believe in God don't want other people to believe in Him either. We need to make sure that we don't forget about Him.

The aim is to introduce the idea of Christmas: There is a lot of tradition mixed up in our Christmas celebrations, but somewhere there is the truth of what we are celebrating!

Teaching time

Equipment

Bibles.

Read Luke 1:46–55, The Magnificat.

- Mary sang this when she realised that God had asked her to be the mother of His son.
- What does she say about God?
- What does she say about herself?
- How do you think Mary felt about being chosen for this task?



Read Luke 2:25–35

Simeon had been waiting to see Jesus for many years.

- In verse 32 what does he say Jesus will do?
- Do you think this is an important passage?

Read Matthew 2:1–11:

- Why did the wise men travel all that way to see the baby?
- Why do you think they gave Him expensive gifts?
- Can we learn anything from what the Wise men did? (We should be prepared to give up things because we know that Jesus is important.)

Craft

Equipment



Cardboard tubes (from kitchen rolls), crepe paper, decorative ribbon, shiny paper and stickers to decorate cracker, sellotape, glue sticks, Bible verse, small toy/sweet.

Discuss the message of Christmas together and how we need to pass this message onto others.

Make simple Christmas crackers using the crepe paper and cardboard tubes. Tie one end off using the decorative ribbon and decorate the rest of the cracker

with stickers and shiny paper.

Once the cracker is finished, give each child a copy of John 3:16, written or printed onto a small piece of paper and a small toy or wrapped sweet. When the child has put both things inside the cracker, tie off the open end with ribbon.

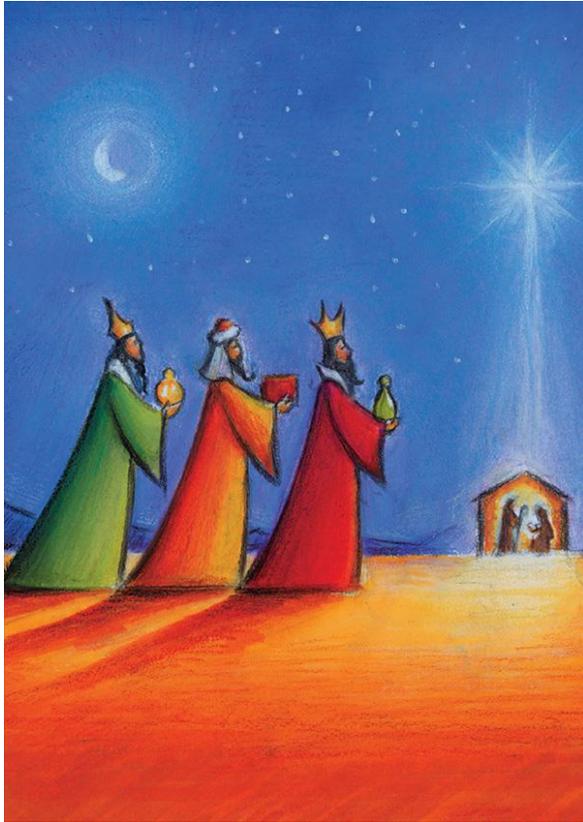
Encourage the children to give it to someone they want to share the Christmas message with, or perhaps to pull it with them! Encourage them to let others know that God loves them, just as He loves us.

The Point: To encourage children to share the Christmas story with others.

Response

Equipment

Bible, with Matthew 2:11 bookmarked.



Read Matthew 2:11. Explain that this was how the Wise Men responded to Jesus when they met Him.

Explain that you want to use this verse to do exactly what the Wise Men did, to worship Jesus. This means telling Him how great we think He is.

Split the verse into 5 parts with an action for each. Either use your own or the children's ideas, or these suggestions:

- On coming to the house – put the tips of your fingers together and make a roof with them, your arms straight down as the walls
- they saw the child with his mother Mary – pretend to hold a baby in your arms
- and they bowed down and worshiped him. – bow down
- Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. – hold out your hands

Go over the verse a few times, as the children learn the words and do the actions.

The Point: To help the children see how the Wise Men responded to Jesus when they met Him.

THE ROCK

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)