

The Rock, Sunday 29th November 2020

Ready, Steady - Advent.

Warm up

Equipment

For each child: an orange, thin red ribbon to wrap round the orange, a pin, soft sweets, raisins and sultanas, 4 cocktail sticks, birthday candle and holder. Ideally, put out sufficient items for each group in bowls and on a tray.

Explain to the children that they are going to be able to make their own 'Christingle', as Christian children often do at Christmas time.

Show them a prepared Christingle and explain the following:



- The four cocktail sticks represent the four corners of the world.
- The red ribbon represents the blood of Jesus.
- The orange represents the world.
- The sweets and fruit represent goodness in the world.
- What might the lit candle represent?

Now tell the children that a Christingle is a symbol that Jesus brings light to the world.

Light them, and to give thanks to God for Jesus, the light of the world.

The Point: This is one way of showing children how we can prepare for Christmas in a way that leads us to reflect on Jesus.

Teaching time

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7y_sElib8YA&t=40s

Watch the 'Whirl Kids Celebrate Advent' video together.

Ask the children if they think it would be a good idea to do all the activities associated with Advent in one day? How easy do the children find it to wait for Christmas?

Suggest that having to wait for something can make what we are waiting for extra special.



Explain that people were waiting for Jesus to arrive for a long time. Not just days and months but years and centuries (ask the children if they know how many days are in a year and how many years are in a century). Jesus was a special baby. He was God's son sent to earth to show how much God loved us. He did this by teaching us about God and allowing himself to be punished for all the wrong things that we

have done (we remember this at Easter).

Jesus was very special and, because people had been waiting for his arrival for such a long time that made, that made his birth at Christmas extra special. When we have to wait for Christmas to arrive during Advent it gives us a chance to remember exactly how special Jesus is!

The Point: To help children understand that when we wait for something it makes that something extra special and Jesus' birth was worth waiting for!

Response

Equipment

BSL sign for 'ready,' available here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/ready>

Learn the BSL sign for 'ready,' which can be found here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/ready>

Explain to the children that we are going to pray, asking God to make us 'ready,' for Him. Spend a few moments talking about what this means and how we can get our hearts ready for Jesus' coming.

Pray together, inviting the children to pray aloud, or taking a lead yourself. Every time you use the word 'ready,' encourage the children to join in with the sign.

The Point: To pray together.



THE ROCK

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