

### Collective Worship - Christmas Christingles

Many children may already be familiar with the Christian tradition of making Christingles in their own churches. This year the Children's Society is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Christingle. You can download a complete assembly script and power point for free from the Children's Society website or you might like to explore the symbols of the Christingle over a few days during collective worship. You could develop a display and add to it over the week. Christingle colouring sheets are readily available online and can be used as templates for written prayers, or you could create a giant Christingle as the week progresses. You may wish to hold a Christingle Service in your local church, or invite parents into school to participate.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/our-history>

[https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/christingle/christingle-songbook\\_0.pdf](https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/christingle/christingle-songbook_0.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGAXIGBB10M> Like a candle flame song Graham Kendrick

<https://shop.childrensociety.org.uk/christingle.html?p=2>

Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Play a piece of music from the Christingle Songbook</p> <p>Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. <a href="#">Psalm 124:8</a></p>	<p>Have an orange to show the children. Ask 'What is this?' 'What could I use it for?' Have some fun wondering about why you have an orange in collective worship...is it a snack? Could it be used for juggling?! I wonder where it came from? Explain that we are going to be thinking about the whole world – what could an orange remind us about the whole world? Explore the children's responses. Have a globe or picture of the world. Ask where did the world come from? Remind the children of the story of creation using a children's version of the Bible Genesis 1. Or use a video clip of the Christian story of creation here. Talk about the world – it was created perfectly and needs looking after. How can we help look after the world? Especially at Christmas time when there is so much shopping and cooking and cleaning going on – how can we remember to keep looking after the world?</p>	<p>Learn and sing together one of the Christingle songs suggested in the Children's Society songbook.</p> <p>Pray for the world...</p>	<p>Shine like stars in the world, To the glory of God the Father.</p> <p>Listen to Christingle music as you leave.</p>
<p>Love is God God is love</p>	<p>Begin your collective worship in the same way but this time use a piece of red ribbon. Have some fun with the wondering! Bring yesterday's orange out and tie the ribbon around the middle (you may need a child to hold as you tie!) Some of the children may already be able to talk about the significance of the red ribbon. Explain that the ribbon represents God's love for the world. Remind the children that God so loved the world He gave his only Son John 3:16.</p>	<p>Sing a Christingle song.</p> <p>Pray for families...</p>	<p>Shine like stars in the world, To the glory of God the Father.</p> <p>Think about how our school</p>

	<p>Christians around the world are God’s family and He wants us to treat each other like family. Sometimes though people find family life hard. They may feel unloved or uncared for, they may not have a family or they may have left their family behind. In the Christmas story Jesus is born into a little family that grows bigger as the shepherds and kings join them. Family care for each other – it doesn’t matter if you’re not related! We can offer love and support to each other.</p>		<p>is like a loving, welcoming family.</p>
<p>Jesus said “I am the light of the world”. Thanks be to God.</p>	<p>Have a tray of dolly mixture style small soft sweets (you could use raisins and sultanas instead). Ask for four volunteers to pick up as many as they can in one minute only using a cocktail stick! Explain that Christians believe God gives us good things – what things can the children think of that are good? Bring out the orange with the ribbon around the middle and see if the children can remember the symbols so far. Ask the children to carefully push their cocktail stick of sweets/fruit into the top of the orange. Explain that the sweets/fruits represent all the good things God has made. We should be thankful and ready to share these gifts with others. Explain that sometimes children don’t have good things in their lives. They may feel alone or afraid. They might feel like they are in the dark. Charities such as the Children’s Society reach out to vulnerable and disadvantaged children so they can have a Christmas free from fear and protected from harm. Light a candle and say that just like Christians believe Jesus is like a light in the darkness, so the candle on the Christingle reminds us that we can all bring a light of hope into the world.</p>	<p>Sing a Christingle song.  Pray for the work of the Children’s Society and other charities, bringing light and hope into the world.  Listen to a piece of Christian music about light such as ‘Like a candle flame’ Graham Kendrick.</p>	<p>Shine like stars in the world, To the glory of God the Father.  Think about how you could be a light to others.</p>