



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE Christingle	LEARNING STAGE LKS2	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Tricia Bastable Mrs Johanna Jordan Mrs Fiona Penny
AIM: to learn about the Christingle tradition and consider how the Christian belief that 'Jesus is the Light of the world' brings a message of hope in the Christmas season. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To understand the symbolism of a Christingle.	MAIN AREAS OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Beliefs and practices Symbols and actions Other AOL covered: Prayer, worship and reflection	LESSON RESOURCES WST will provide: PPT Christingle puppet and other visual aids Printable follow-on activities (craft, colouring) School to provide: Optional: follow-on activities, such as making a Christingle (resources to be provided by the school), crafts or worksheets.

Introduction

In today's assembly/lesson we are going to be thinking about the Christingle tradition. Christingle is a candlelit celebration which brings together people of all ages from the Christian community. Christingle means 'Christ light'. Light is often used as a symbol for God's presence. Christingles are used by Christians to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World usually during Church services and school assemblies during Advent.

Main content

Christingles date back to 1747, when a minister in a church in Germany gave children a lit candle with a red ribbon around it.

It wasn't until 1968 that Christingles were introduced into Anglican Churches in England. The first Christingle service, in 1968, raised money for the Children's Society charity and today Christingle services still raise money for the Children's Society who help children in need.

During a Christingle service, there may be prayers and songs and children hold lighted Christingles in a darkened church. Now you may wonder what a Christingle is? Well, I've brought a friend who is going to help us learn all about Christingles. Let me see if Chris is ready... (Make a bit of a thing about Chris being too shy to come out and encourage the children to call for 'Chris').

Use Chris the Christingle puppet to explain the various parts of a Christingle (separate script)

A Christingle is made from an orange, red ribbon, 4 small sticks, dried fruits or sweets and a lit candle.

Each part of the Christingle has a symbolic meaning.

- The Orange represents the world.
- The red ribbon represents God's love and Jesus' suffering and blood.
- The sweets and fruit on four cocktail sticks represents the four seasons, the fruits of the earth and God's goodness.

- The candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World.

For Christians, the light tells the truth of the Christmas Story – that in the darkness of the world, Jesus came to bring light. Christians believe that Jesus came to make a difference in people’s lives. He came to bring God’s forgiveness and love.

As we finish the assembly, can you think of how you can be a light to those around you. I’m going to ask a few children to hold one of my candles. And while we listen (or sing along to) a song (‘Hope of heaven’, ‘Sing Christingle’ or ‘Silent night’), I’d like to invite you to think about how you can bring love to others this Christmas.

Activity:

(Optional)

Chn can make their own Christingle (resources to be provided by the school).

Chn can complete one of the Christingle worksheets or colouring pages provided by WST.

Plenary

A Christingle is full of symbolism which reminds Christians that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ birth which was a demonstration of how much God loved everyone.

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Can chn suggest a new creation (like a Christingle) that might be a symbol of God’s love.

Song options:

Silent night: [Silent Night with Lyrics | Christmas Carol](#)

Hope of Heaven: [Hope of Heaven.mp4](#)

Sing Christingle: [Christingle Song](#) or [Sing Christingle.mp4](#)

Class teacher’s notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit
www.watfordschoolstrust.org or email info@watfordschoolstrust.org

