

Diocese of Armagh
Religious Education Resources, Foundation Level [P2]

Lesson Plan

The Christian Church: Worship and Prayer/Special Occasions/Celebrate Christmas

Core Concept of Lesson: During the Church calendar there are special times of celebration and Christmas is one of them.

Learning Objectives: Pupils should begin to develop a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the growth of Christianity, of its worship, prayer and religious language, a growing awareness of the meaning of belonging to a Christian tradition, and sensitivity toward the beliefs of others.

Learning Outcomes: Pupils should be able to recognise that Christmas is a special occasion associated with worship. Pupils should have the opportunity to participate in celebrating Christmas.

Success Criteria:

- Pupils have heard the story of the birth of Jesus directly connected with the celebration of Christmas.
- Pupils have had an opportunity to participate in worship, celebrating Christmas.
- Pupils have had an opportunity to learn a song that is part of the Christian tradition.
- Pupils have had an opportunity to express their creativity.

Duration: Lesson plan assumes a 45 min. session, but additional activities (provided) can be used to extend, if necessary.

Lesson Plan Details

The Christian Church: Worship and Prayer/Celebration of Christmas

Stage	Aim/Purpose	Time	Procedure	Resources/ Materials
Warming up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage children to begin to think about Christmas as a <i>worship</i> celebration. 	5 min.	<p>Ask the following (or similar) questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who can tell me what we celebrate at Christmastime? Who can tell me one thing your family does to celebrate Christmas? Can anyone tell me something different that happens at church at Christmastime? 	
Telling the story of the birth of Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the story of the birth of Jesus To emphasise that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth To show that the story is found in the Bible 	10 min.	<p>Show where the birth story of Jesus can be found in the Bible (Luke 1:26-2:20; Matthew 2:1-12)</p> <p>Using the story pictures, encourage the children to re-tell the story about the birth of Jesus</p> <p>Emphasise the worship elements in the story—angels praising God, shepherds telling everyone about what they'd seen, wise men bringing Jesus valuable gifts and kneeling before him.</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>PowerPoint Presentation: 'Christmas Story Pictures'</p>

<p>Activity 1: Learn a Christmas Carol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the children to the concept that music is very important for the way we worship, and especially at Christmastime. To familiarise the children with a worship song, so that they can participate more fully in church/classroom worship To teach about an element of Christian worship and tradition. 	<p>10 min.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project the words for 'Away in a Manger' (or make copies of the carol sheet) Ask how many know the carol already. Explain that this is a carol that has been sung by Christians as part of their Christmas celebration for over a hundred years. Teach the words and talk about them as you go. Listen to the tune. Practise singing the carol together. 	<p>Carol Sheet (pdf)</p> <p>Recorded Music (if needed)</p> <p>For a brief history of the carol and midi file, see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Away_in_a_Manger</p> <p>For a youtube video with words and children singing, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi45JkZtUnM</p>
<p>Activity 2: Handprint Wisemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage creative connection with Christmas story—particularly remembering the worship that took place 	<p>15 min.</p>	<p>Preparation: Pre-printed strips 'They followed a star to worship Lord Jesus' (or something similar)</p> <p>Instructions and example found on Instruction Sheet: 'Handprint Wisemen'</p>	<p>Instruction Sheet: 'Handprint Wisemen'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A3 blue card ink pads in three colours wallpaper or scraps of card scissors, glue sticks, pens, pencils, crayons star stamp or template

<p>Activity 3:</p> <p>Wordsearch puzzle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws attention to words connected with worship and Christmas 	<p>10 min.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eleven words having to do with Christmas are hidden in this puzzle. Can you find all of them? The words go either top to bottom or left to right. Children could use different colours to highlight the words as they find them, or simply circle them. 	<p>Worksheet: 'Celebrate Christmas Wordsearch'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pens, pencils, crayons
<p>Plenary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce the core concepts of the lesson • To enable the children to participate in a mini-worship service 	<p>5 min.</p>	<p>Preparation: Create a worship space by putting a real candle or battery-operated candle in the centre and gathering the children together around it. Perhaps the use of a crèche/nativity scene would be appropriate addition.</p> <p>Read the words of the angels from Luke 2:14 Sing Away in a Manger Have the children repeat a line prayer after you: 'Glory to God in the highest. Thank you for sending Jesus to us. Amen'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words for 'Away in a Manger' • Candle • Creche/Nativity Scene • Bible/Luke 2:14