

Children's Church at Home 24 December 2020

Readings Genesis 1:31 (and God saw everything that he had made) John 3:16 (God so loved the world)
John 1:1-5 (in the beginning was the word), John 8:12 (I am the light of the world)

Craft ingredients: an orange, red ribbon or paper, 4 cocktail sticks, some small sweets or dried fruit, small piece of foil, a candle, sellotape.

First: a scavenger hunt!

What can you find that represents the world to you?

Something beautiful? Something round? (*a photo of a landscape, a globe or ball, a world map, pebbles, feathers, shells, anything round!*)

Let's take a few moments to think about God's wonderful world. What part of creation are you particularly grateful for today? A special place, a creature, another person? Give thanks for that place/creature/person. Sadly, we have all been guilty of damaging God's creation or not appreciating it enough. Let's take a moment to say sorry and to pray for God's creation where it is suffering.

The next part of the Christingle is the **red tape or ribbon**. What does this represent? It's the love and blood of Jesus, who gave his life for us and the whole world (John 3.16).

What can you find in your home that is red or represents love to you? (*red string or wool, a scarf, a family photo, a piece of jewellery, a heart shape.*)

Now let's take a few moments to think about God's love and the people who love us. *Who is special to you? Whose love are you grateful for today? Give thanks for them. At this time of year, some are feeling lonely or sad. Pray for any particular needs of people you know.*

Next up is the **candle**. What does the candle represent? It represents Jesus, the Light of the World, who brings joy and hope to all (John 1.4; John 12.46).

What can you find that represents light to you? Go and find that now. (*a decorative or scented candle, a lamp, a torch, a mobile phone with light switched on.*) Now take a few moments to reflect on Jesus, Light of the World, bringer of joy and hope to all. *What things make you full of joy? Give thanks for them now. Some people, such as the vulnerable children and young people supported by The Children's Society, do not feel joyful or hopeful and are struggling. Pray for them.*

And finally what do we need to finish our Christingle? Of course! We need **the cocktail sticks and sweets or dried fruits**. These represent all the good things that God gives us in creation.

What can you find that represents the good things God gives us? (*something to eat, a favourite animal toy, a natural item, a plant*) *Which season are you most grateful for? What are your favourite foods? What is your favourite animal? Let's give thanks for them. Some people in our country and in the world do not have enough food. Let's pray for them.*

The orange represents the world, God's good creation. **The red tape or ribbon** represents the love and blood of Jesus, who gave his life for us. **The candle** represents **Jesus, the Light of the World**, born at Christmas time. The **cocktail sticks** and the **dried fruits or sweets** represent all the good things in creation that God has given us (some people also think the cocktail sticks represent the four seasons).

Introduction to Christingle and The Children's Society

Christingle was first invented by the Moravian church in the 1700s, but the celebration as we know it was introduced to the Church of England by The Children's Society in the 1960s.

The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the it. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. They have been part of our history for over 50 years and have helped raise millions of pounds to help this country's most vulnerable children. Each year we ask those who celebrate Christingle to hold a collection to support children and young people in some of the darkest situations imaginable.

The Children's Society

Founded in 1881 by Sunday School teacher Edward Rudolf, for the last 139 years The Children's Society has supported millions of this country's children and restored hope to their lives. We believe in building a society that works for every child, so that they are safe, happy and free to fulfil their incredible potential.

We run vital local services that provide vulnerable children across the country with the support, advice and guidance that they need, and we also campaign to make children's lives better and change the systems that are placing them in danger. (With thanks to the Children's Society)

Video: [Christingle 2020 on Vimeo: https://youtu.be/JPh-x51A3wM](https://youtu.be/JPh-x51A3wM)

Craft: Make and light your Christingle!

Activity: think of a way to bless your friends and family. Play the game your friend wants to play, thank your parents for preparing your meals or taking you to the park, ask to help with chores. And don't forget to put away your scavenger hunt things!

Also: If you haven't had a chance to look at these stories and activities, do try them over Christmas. [2020-FF-Advent-Adventure.pdf \(opendoorsuk.org\)](https://www.opendoorsuk.org/2020-FF-Advent-Adventure.pdf)

Prayer: Lord Good, it's Christmas! Help us to remember how much you love the world and each one of us. Thank you for all your blessings. Show us how to **be** blessings ourselves, to our friends and families, and to the whole world. Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.