



RESOURCE OVERVIEW

'Light up Christmas' is a free interactive resource for P6-7 from Scripture Union Scotland and Scripture Union Ireland, looking at what Christians believe about Christmas. The downloadable resource pack provides everything needed to run a ninety-minute programme, which can be delivered as one lesson or split into three parts. There is no preparation required, other than printing out the relevant resources.

The programme is based around a series of three videos, which are summarised below. Detailed Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes for each episode can be found at the end of this document in Appendix 1.

Episode One: The Origins of Christmas

This episode explores the *why* behind the glitz and glam of Christmas, considering how the first Christmas fits with the narrative of the Old Testament. The Jewish people had been awaiting a Saviour for thousands of years since his coming was foretold in the Garden of Eden. All their history had pointed towards this moment!

Episode Two: The Unexpected Christmas

We look forward eagerly to Christmas each year, but that wasn't the case on the first Christmas because nobody knew it was coming! It was certainly a big surprise for Jesus' mum Mary to find out she would be the mother of the Messiah. How did she and her fiancé Joseph cope with this news? And is there actually a donkey in the Christmas story?!

Episode Three: The Christian Meaning of Christmas

Our knowledge of the Christmas story may stop with the baby in the manger, but this episode explores what happened next, between the first Christmas and the first Easter. Pupils are invited to consider what *they* believe about the meaning of Christmas.

Lesson Outline

To deliver this lesson, you will need:

- A laptop and projector or smart board
- Print outs of Activity 1: Christmas Jumper Creation Craft
- Scrap paper for Activity 2: The Unexpected Quiz (for writing down answers)
- Print outs of Activity 3: Prophets and Promises Worksheet
- Colouring pens/pencils etc for the craft activity

	Item	Content	Format	Timing*	CfE Es &Os
Part 1	Icebreaker activity	Tinsel and Traditions 1 The children will answer four questions to introduce the theme of Christmas	PPT	6 mins	LIT 2-02a, 2-09a, RME 2-01c
	Video	Episode 1: The origins of Christmas	Video	8 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Activity 1 Craft	Christmas Jumper Creation Using the template provided, design your own Christmas jumper	PDF (PRINT)	18 mins	EXA 2-05a, 2-06a
Part 2	Video	Episode 2: The unexpected Christmas	Video	9 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Activity 2 Quiz	The Unexpected Quiz The children will answer some questions as a class or in teams based around the first Christmas as recounted in the Bible	PPT	20 mins	LIT 2-04a, 2-06a RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b
Part 3	Video	Episode 3: The Christian meaning of Christmas	Video	6 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Activity 3 Worksheet	Prophets and Promises In pairs or in groups, this comprehension exercise will encourage the children to link Old Testament prophecies with their fulfilment in the New Testament	PDF (PRINT)	15 mins	LIT 2-13a, 2-14a, 2-16a RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b
	Reflection Activity	Tinsel and Traditions 2 The children will answer a few more questions on Christmas, reflecting on the main themes of the videos	Slide	8 mins	LIT 2-02a, 2-09a RME 2-01c, 2-03c, 2-07a

* Suggested timings are just a guide - you may wish to spend longer or shorter on some sections.

Appendix 1:

Detailed Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes for Episode content

Episode One: The Origins of Christmas

This episode considers the first Christmas and where it fits within the Christian understanding of the Old Testament (RME 2-07) including:

- Why we celebrate Christmas with gift giving and other traditions (RME 2-03b)
- The significance of Jesus being born and how that has shaped our calendar and when we take seasonal holidays (RME 2-03c)
- The biblical narrative of creation (RME 2-01a)
- The biblical narrative of the origin of human freewill and sin (RME 2-01b)
- God's plan for the redemption and restoration of the earth (RME 2-01b) including the formation of a people for himself in the Israelites (RME 2-01a)
- The history of the Jewish people (RME 2-01a)
- The key role of prophets and prophecy in Christianity, including the prophetic foretelling of the first Christmas (RME 2-03b)

Episode Two: The Unexpected Christmas

This episode explores the first ever Christmas (RME 2-07) including:

- The angel's appearance to Mary, and then Joseph, foretelling the birth of Jesus (RME 2-01a)
- Mary's personal faith (RME 2-01a)
- The experience of Jews under Roman rule (RME 2-01a)
- The prophecy that a Saviour would be sent by God (RME 2-03b)
- The historical account of Mary and Joseph's participation in the census (RME 2-03b)
- The unexpected nature of the Saviour (RME 2-01a)
- The first visitors to baby Jesus (RME 2-03b)
- The appearance of the angels to the shepherds (RME 2-01b)

Episode Three: The Christian meaning of Christmas

This episode details Jesus' life between the first Christmas and the first Easter and invites pupils to draw their own conclusions about the meaning of Christmas (RME 2-07) including:

- Jesus' love of gathering to eat with people as we do at Christmas (RME 2-03c)
- The ministry of Jesus as described in the Bible, including miracles of multiplying food and drink, calming nature, power over sickness and evil spirits (RME 2-01b)
- The teaching of Jesus that his followers should be kind to enemies, forgive those who have hurt them and pray (RME 2-02a)
- Jesus' death and resurrection (RME 2-03b)
- A personal reflection on faith by the presenters (RME 2-02a/RME 2-07)