

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 10	The Saviour is Born
Lesson 4	The Celebration of Christmas

TEACHER'S NOTES

AIMS

1. Children will learn about several Christmas traditions.
2. They will learn that the best gift they can give Jesus is a loving heart at Christmas Mass.

PREPARATION

Wrap to small boxes: one in birthday wrapping paper and one in Christmas wrapping paper.

STEP 1

Show the children the birthday present and discuss with them what it is and when they would give or receive such a present (on their birthday or that of a friend or family member). Then show them the Christmas present and ask them on whose birthday they would give or receive a present such as this one (on Christmas, Jesus' birthday).

Explain that in this lesson we will learn about Christmas presents and other Christmas traditions.

STEP 2

Read the Special Paragraph in the children's pack with the children. This paragraph list a few of the things that we associate with Christmas: trees, lights, carols, presents. List these and invite the children to add items to the list such as special foods and activities.

STEP 3

Ask the children to tell you about their Christmas trees. Explain that the Christmas tree reminds us of: The tree of life in the Garden of Eden and it also reminds us of the cross upon which Christ died to save us from sin.

We have lights on the Christmas tree to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

STEP 4

Discuss the custom of singing Christmas carols. Ask them what they remind them off (they remind everyone of the angels who sang praises to God on the very first Christmas when the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

STEP 5

Explain to the children that it is a good idea to make small sacrifices during Advent to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus: like not eating biscuits or ice cream for examples. This will make Christmas even more special when we tuck into the foods we enjoy but have denied ourselves during Advent.

STEP 6

Remind the children that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and we need to give Jesus a present. The best present we can give Jesus is a loving heart. Ask the children how they can show Jesus that they have a loving heart (by small acts of kindness and sacrifices during Advent).

STEP 7

Discuss the picture of Santa Clause in their packs. Ask them what they think Santa Clause is doing (worshipping baby Jesus). Explain that the original Santa Claus was St Nicholas, a Catholic saint.

St Nicholas was born in Turkey and he was bishop of a place called Myra in the forth century. Explain that we are now in the 21st century. Ask the children how long ago was the forth century.

His relics are now in a church in Italy. His feast day is 6th December. He is famous for throwing money through the windows of very poor people and running away before they could recognise or thank him.

In Germany and Switzerland today on the night of December the 5th St Nicholas leaves coins and other small gifts for children to discover the next day, his feast day.

REINFORCE

Have the children draw their own picture Santa worshipping baby Jesus in their packs.

Show the children the DVD “Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa”.

CONCLUDE

1. Sing together “Away in a Manger,” *Adoremus Hymnal* # 336
2. Say the special prayer in the children’s pack with the children.

PREVIEW

In the next lesson, we will review what we have recently learned and take a quiz.