

Shine Your Light Christingle

Why?

Shine Your Light and a Christingle are both about sharing the news that Jesus is the light of the world. So, a Christingle/Shine Your Light combo could help to make this message even more accessible to people.

How?

There are many ways to include a Christingle as part of your Shine Your Light celebration. Different things will work in different contexts so choose what's right for you and your context.

A Christingle could be:

- Your main Shine Your Light event.
- An accessible event that signposts your Shine Your Light celebration.
- A Messy Church, toddler group or similar format event, linked to and inviting people to your Shine Your Light event.

Safety Note

If you choose to make a Christingle your main Shine Your Light event, do consider how you will handle candles safely with large numbers. You might want to use LED candles or small glowsticks as safer alternatives.

Crafts and Activities

Messy Church and similar events offer people the opportunity to explore a theme through crafts and activities. A Christingle in this context will offer activities that explore the theme of light with how Jesus is the light of the world becoming the focus of the worship celebration.

The following are some simple crafts and activities that might help people to explore the theme of light:

- Competition – how many different sources of light can you think of?
- Competition – how many different words can you make from the phrase, 'Jesus the light of the world'?

- Decorate tea light holders (small glasses or jam jars are ideal). You will need glasses, acrylic pens and tea lights (LED ideally).
- Light and Dark pictures – use yellow crayon to draw lots of stars in the sky or a candle, then paint over it with dark blue or black paint.
- Light and dark wordsearch e.g.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-14056-light-and-dark-wordsearch>
- Light activity mat e.g.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/light-activity-mat-t-par-1724848370>
- Light quiz e.g.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/sources-of-light-paper-quiz-t-sc-1675171452>
- Light and dark matching game e.g.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-2546603-light-and-dark-matching-cards-and-boards-game>
- Make paper lanterns
<https://www.craftsonsea.co.uk/printable-paper-lantern-template/>
- Light of the world reflective colouring e.g.
<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/06/here-is-new-reflective-colouring-sheet.html>
- Light of the world Play Dough mats e.g.
<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/10/light-of-world-play-dough-mat.html>
- Light of the world suncatchers e.g.
<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2017/11/light-of-world-sun-catchers-with.html>
- Magic light drawings e.g.
<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/teachers/magic-light-drawings/>
- Paper cup lighthouses e.g.
<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/kids/seasons/summer-seasons/paper-cup-lighthouses/>

You can find more suggestions at websites such as:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk>

<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com>

Note some of these websites might need you to create a free account.

The Christingle

The Christingle will form the worship celebration part of your event. Think about whether you want people to make their own Christingle or not. The Christingle could be made as part of the craft activities, or it works very well to give people a bag with all the Christingle 'ingredients' in and invite them to assemble it as you explain it.

Christingle Resources Needed

Each Christingle will need:

- A paper bag to put everything in (if people are making their own)
- An orange with a hole in the top (two cuts to make an X is enough)
- Red ribbon or tape cut into a strip long enough to go round the orange
- Cocktail sticks x 4
- A mini box of raisins (as an alternative to sweets)
- A small bag of sweets
- A small circle of tin foil with a hole in the middle big enough for the candle
- A small candle/LED candle/glowstick

A Christingle Celebration

Welcome and Introduction

Say hello, introduce yourself, explain that you're going to spend half an hour thinking about light together.

You might want to warn adults that candles will be lit later so they might want to keep children within reach!

Lights: Introductory Conversation

What gives us light?

How many things can they think of?

Did anyone do the competition?

Look at some of the light activities they have done and be VERY positive about them!

Pick up on candles and stars.

They have candles in their bags to make a Christingle with...shortly!

Candles give us light.

In the Christmas story it was a star that lit the way for people to find baby Jesus.

When Jesus grew up, he told people he was the 'light of the world' and that's what the Christingles we're going to make help us understand.

If you want to include an opening prayer and songs in your Christingle, they could go here.

Optional Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus,

As we gather now to celebrate your birth

Shine your light on us this Christmas

As we worship you and sing familiar carols

Shine your light on us this Christmas

As we hear again the Christmas story

Shine your light on us this Christmas

Lord Jesus shine your light on us this Christmas. Amen

Optional Song

O Come All Ye Faithful

The Christingle Story

The Christingle tells the greatest story ever told.

About 150 years ago in Germany, a church leader wanted a way to explain

WHY we have Christmas to children. Children knew that Christmas was when

Christians remembered Jesus being born. But this church leader wanted to be

able to explain why...and he came up with a Christingle!

Orange

Take your orange

Big, round and full of goodness it can remind us of the world God made.

I wonder what good you see in the world.

God made the world out of love.

You might want to hold your orange in your hands now and imagine God loving it so much, loving it into life.

Sticks and Sweets

Next, we're going to take the four little sticks which remind us of the four seasons of the year – spring, summer, autumn and winter...some people also think of them as the 4 corners of the world.

But I can't see any corners on an orange can you?

How do sweets and raisins taste?

Pick up on sweet

They taste sweet and remind us of all the good things in the world that make life sweet. Can you think of any?

Take ideas e.g. family, toys, playing football, holidays, food

Carefully put your sweets or raisins onto the sticks.

As you do, if you can, think of the things that make your life sweet; things you are grateful for.

Then, carefully push the sticks into your orange at the top to make a square shape. Like there's one in each corner.

The sticks are the 4 seasons, and the sweets remind us of all the good things in the world that make life sweet.

You thought of good things earlier...maybe think of them again now. You might want to say thank you in your head for them.... this is like a thankyou prayer to God.

But even though God filled the world with good things it wasn't the bright and light place he intended it to be. People make mistakes, we do things wrong...oops! These wrong things mean that the world got broken. People can make the world a dark and sad place to be.

What makes the world a dark place? What makes it broken and sad...you might want to think of a few things now...maybe when people are mean, fight, don't share, are unkind.

You might want to take ideas here...carefully as little children can get upset when they hear about sad things.

Optional Song O Little Town of Bethlehem

Candle (LED/Glowstick)

God sent his Son Jesus into the world to be the light of the world. Not a light to shine on the world from heaven, but a light to shine from the earth itself. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God's Son becoming a human being like us, to bring God's light to a world in darkness. This is what we celebrate at Christmas.

Now, we're going to carefully take our candle and put it through the foil ready to catch any drips later. Then, we're going to put it into the top of the orange where the little cross is on the top.

As you do this you might want to think about God sending Jesus as a tiny baby to be the light shining in the darkness. Later we're going to light the candle to remind us that God's light really does make a difference in our dark world.

Optional Song Away in a Manger/Silent Night

Ribbon

But the world didn't like the light. Jesus showed up all the wrong things that had been hidden in the dark and people didn't like it. They got cross with Jesus.

To remind us of the next bit of the story take your red tape/ribbon and we're going to stretch it round the middle of the orange. This reminds us that Jesus loves the world and people so much that he stretched his arms out for us and died on a cross. Jesus' love goes right around the world and includes absolutely everybody.

With your finger, you might want to follow the red ribbon on your Orange all around the world. How do we know that people love us? How do we show love for people? The red ribbon is a reminder that God's love goes right around the world like a big hug.

Can you think of ways that God's love breaks into the broken world?

You might want to take ideas e.g. when people are kind, serving and showing love to others.

God's love for the world was shown most deeply when the grown-up Jesus died on the cross. It's the part of God's story that Christians remember at Easter. So, the ribbon is red for love and for Jesus' blood because he died.

But even though Jesus died, the candle flame still burns brightly, because Jesus came alive again. Jesus showed that the love of God and the light of God was brighter than all the darkness of the world. This is what Christians celebrate at Easter.

That's the story that the Christingle tells. The story of the light and love of God coming to a broken world in baby Jesus, who came to bring the light and love of God to every dark corner of the world.

Christingle Lighting

We're going to light the candle for Jesus the light of the world.

Jesus said he was the light of the world, and he also said, 'You're the light of the world'. But how does that light get from Jesus to us, and into the world?

Christingles are best lit from one another. When our own flame has been lit with the light of God's love, our job is to pass it on. That's how the light and love of God will spread through the darkness and across the whole world. So, we'll light a candle at the end of each row and then we invite you to, carefully, pass the light on as we sing our next song.

Have adults on hand to light the candles. Ask adults to be responsible for their children and perhaps have a few buckets of water close by!

Optional Song Joy to the World /Shine Jesus Shine

Being Lights

I'm going to ask you to blow your candles out now.

But how can we be lights in the world when our candles aren't lit?

What happens when we go home?

The world can seem like a dark and hard place to live.

How can we be lights in a world like this?

This is a visual aid for which you will need a large magnet, some iron filings, a match and a bowl of water. If you haven't got these items or would rather not do this activity, simply explain using the words below.

I'm going to try to show you...

Light a candle and have some iron powder in a bowl.

Put the powder on the end of a magnet (don't dip the magnet in the bowl as you'll get too much).

Hold the magnet with the powder on it in the candle flame

Nothing happens!

Explain that nothing happens because the iron powder is packed together like we are here now.

BUT...if...

Iron powder is sprinkled over a flame it creates sparks (like a sparkler).

The iron is like the dust of the earth, very ordinary , but in the flame something beautiful, lively and filled with light is created.

The Bible says that we were created from dust, we are children of the earth.

But having Jesus' light in us changes us and it's as we go and are scattered in the communities and places where we live, that like sparks we can share Jesus' light with others.

Jesus said he was the light of the world, but he also said, 'you are the light of the world'...we are!

Pick up here if you're not using the candle, iron and magnet

When we follow Jesus the light of the world, when he's our light ,he puts his light in us, and we can share it with others.

But to do that we need to go and be scattered in the world.

We share the light of Jesus every day, at home, work, school, the park, nursery...not just at Christmas.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, who led us out of darkness so we can become children of light,

**Give us the brightness to shine in the world,
Help us to follow your light
And give us the courage to face dark situations so that we can all can
become children of your light and shine your light to those around
us. Amen.**

OR

*If this is your main Shine Your Light event you could end with the prayer in the
programme.*

Shine Your Light

If this is not your Shine Your Light main event, then signpost it and invite people here. Explain that Shine Your Light is another opportunity to explore what it means for God to send his love and light into the world, through carols and the Christmas story.