



# Assembly... Plus!

This pack is aimed at encouraging Year Six students to consider assembly themes in more depth. You can of course adapt the ideas below for any year group. We hope they will get your class thinking and talking about the topic.

All of our resources are available to download at: [www.splashschools.org.uk/resources](http://www.splashschools.org.uk/resources)

## Lesson objective: to reflect on giving (rather than receiving).

Introduction:	Do you remember <u>all</u> the gifts you've ever received? Discuss: why not? Share stories of memorable gifts. What makes a gift memorable?	
Main:	<p>Watch the video from the assembly (see online resources) where shoebox gifts are opened by children in other countries. Discuss: how does this video make you feel? What can we learn from these children? Think about the items you are hoping to receive this year. How can we be more grateful for gifts that don't have high monetary value? Can a gift cost nothing?</p> <p>As a class, you could learn more about <a href="#">Link to Hope</a> – a local charity based in Worthing who send shoeboxes to very poor people in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Perhaps read the first-hand account of presenting someone with a shoebox (see resource sheet).</p> <p>You could also look into other local charities and how they are helping poor people at Christmastime. NB If your class are moved to create a shoebox, you've probably missed the deadline for this year's appeal, but they could fill shoeboxes for local people in poverty, perhaps donating them to a foodbank or other charity.</p> <p>Who in your community might need a shoebox? What would you put in it? E.g. homeless, elderly and lonely, refugee child, family using the food bank etc.</p>	<p>Recap the story of Christmas in a way appropriate for your class. Focus in on the wise men who arrive with gifts for the baby, and what they gave. Did you know that the wise men gave these gift for specific reasons?</p> <p>In pairs or groups, children could look at the facts about gold, frankincense and myrrh (see resource sheet). Why do you think these were suitable gifts for Jesus?</p> <p>(Gold shows that Jesus is a King, frankincense shows that he is a priest of God, and myrrh points us to his death on the cross.)</p> <p>Imagine you are going to visit the baby Jesus. Think about what you know about Jesus – what gift(s) would you give to him and why? Children could share this verbally or in written form.</p>
	<p>Watch the video from the assembly (see online resources) in which the boy is more excited to give than receive. Have you ever felt like this? Share examples of giving a gift. Is giving more important than receiving?</p> <p>Ask children to spend some time thinking about their friends and family, like the "thoughtful friend" did in assembly. They should take time to reflect on different people in lives, their likes/dislikes and possible gift options. What could you make? What could you buy? This could be thoughtful reflection time or a written list of ideas for each person with reasons. Perhaps there is time to start making a gift idea?</p>	<p>Ask children to look up 2 Corinthians 9, verse 15 in Bibles (or use resource sheet).</p> <p>What is God's gift to you?</p> <p>Explore what Christians believe, that God sent his son Jesus to earth as a gift for us, so that he would die in our place to allow humans to be close to God again.</p> <p>God also gives us his creation, all the wonderful places in nature we can visit, food that is grown with the help of the sun and rain, animals and plants.</p> <p>Children could have some time to think or pray about the gifts that God has given them. They could write a thank you letter to God.</p>
Plenary:	Why give gifts at all? Do you remember the 5 love languages that we looked at in the previous assembly? Recap these (acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, physical touch) and discuss how you could give each of these as a gift. Remember that giving a gift doesn't have to be expensive, nor does it have to be for Christmas – but it is an act of love.	