



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

Lesson objective: understand what Christ means to Christians.

Introduction:	At the beginning of the assembly, there was lots of discussion about plans for Christmas. What plans do your family have in December? Discuss together and pull out similarities and differences. Perhaps there are class members who don't celebrate Christmas but have other plans to share.	
Main:	<p>Our assembly had a big focus on spelling! Using words made from the letters of Christmas, ask children to write their own version of the Christmas story. Challenge them to use as many "Christmas" words as possible, underline or highlight them while writing etc. There is a list you can use (see resource sheet) or challenge children to find their own ideas. No matter what they use, everyone must include the word Christ which was discussed in the assembly. Discuss: The word Christ is in Christmas, Christian, Christianity – why? What does that tell you about this word and its meaning for Christians?</p>	<p>Watch and listen again to the incoming video used in the assembly (on our website). Share the lyrics for the song with the children (see resource sheet). We might be feeling very excited about Christmas, but there are many people who might not be. Can you think of examples? These lyrics are written to encourage those people by reminding them of Christ and his message. Could you write a letter to someone who is unhappy this Christmas, telling them about the message of Christ?</p>
	<p>Look at Christmas cards (a pile of real ones if possible, or use the images on the resource PPT). Ask children to sort them into two piles – those that have some connection with the Christmas story, and those that don't. The assembly song was "Remember to keep Christ in Christmas". Do Christmas cards help us with that? Discuss other elements of Christmas – wrapping paper, shopping, parties, overeating. It's important not to "bah-humbug" everyone's fun! But ask children to decide which parts of celebrating Christmas might still capture the true meaning of Christmas for a Christian and why, linking their ideas to what they know of Christian belief.</p>	<p>Use the lesson to develop a better understanding of the word Christ. Children could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do some research on the word, looking up information on the internet - look up Bible verses to build a picture of the word's meaning (see resource sheet) - look at images of Christ in art from different countries: https://youtu.be/BPOb-IM-UNY - interview adults and students in school to find out what Christ means to them <p>Present findings to the whole class or in small groups, feeding back.</p>
Plenary:	<p>Some Christians become upset when people spell "Christmas" as "Xmas". Can you understand why? Debate as a class: is it ok to spell Christmas as Xmas? If your class are really interested in this, try this link for some surprising information: https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/christmas-or-xmas</p>	