



Christmas

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Additional Resources

PowerPoint presentation, a Christmassy table to display items on, Christmas music (by a Salvation Army brass band), a large gift-wrapped box which holds the rest of the resources, a mince pie, a cup and plate with the red shield on it, a Christmas cracker, a toy with a gift bow on it, chocolate coins, a few nativity model characters.

Getting Ready For Christmas

Aims

To learn about the work of The Salvation Army during Christmas

To reflect on how we can help others

Introduction

Welcome children and teachers to assembly and introduce yourself. You may wish to have some Christmas music playing as the children enter and leave the hall.

Christmas is going to be here soon and lots of people are getting ready for Christmas. Your teachers might be getting ready for Christmas by planning Christmas-themed lessons and craft. Your parents might be getting things ready at home for Christmas too, wrapping presents, decorating the house and planning nice meals. Are you excited for Christmas? Are you getting ready? What are the kinds of things we do to get ready for Christmas? *Take a variety of responses – mince pies, crackers, presents, Christmas tree...*

Main Talk

Today I am going to talk about how The Salvation Army is getting ready for Christmas. I've brought some things with me today to show you how we get ready for Christmas - a Salvation Army Christmas.

Here is a present that is going to help us get ready for Christmas. *Show large gift-wrapped box. Open box and take out the objects to match each part of the talk. Display objects on a table.*

Here's my mince pie and it comes with a special plate and cup. Mince pies are usually served hot and taste great, especially with a hot drink. If you are cold and hungry, hot food and drink is important. Homeless people can be cold and hungry at Christmas time. The Salvation Army helps the homeless at Christmas by making sure they have a hot meal to eat.

Here's my cracker. If you are on your own, a cracker is not much fun. You need two people to pull it. *You may wish to ask two children to pull the cracker.* Lots of people can be on their own and lonely at Christmas time. The Salvation Army helps lonely people, like the elderly, at Christmas by running social clubs. This means people are no longer on their own. They meet and chat with other people and can have a meal together.



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A toy! A Christmas present! Everyone loves to get a present, especially at Christmas. But some children aren't fortunate enough to get a gift. So The Salvation Army runs a present appeal every year. It asks people to buy just one more present and donate it to the appeal. This present is then given to a child who would not have had a present otherwise that year.

Chocolate coins -my favourite! Every year The Salvation Army does fundraising at Christmas time. This means people donate money -real money not chocolate money - to help support the work The Salvation Army does. One way that The Salvation Army raises money is by playing Christmas music with a brass band. *Play music.* People enjoy listening to the Christmas music; it reminds them that Christmas is coming.

A baby Jesus! *Set up a little nativity scene.* The Salvation Army is a Christian church and Christmas is the time when Christians remember that God sent his only son to be born on earth. So The Salvation Army gets ready for people who wish to go to church and celebrate Jesus's birth together.

This table is looking very Christmassy now. It looks ready for Christmas. This box was filled with items that represent what The Salvation Army does to help people at Christmas time. Can you remember which groups of people were helped? *Take a variety of responses.* But what have we been left with? -A box. It was filled with lots of kind actions to help people and you can't really put kindness in a box. To The Salvation Army, getting ready for Christmas is getting ready to help others.

Christian Perspective

Christians are taught in the Bible to help one another, to look after one another, to love one another. **1 John 3:23** - 'Love one another.' Helping others at Christmas is a way of showing love to one another, to show that you care.

Challenge and Reflection

I would like you to take a moment to think about how you can get ready for Christmas by helping someone. It might be you could ask Mum or Dad every day how you can help. It might be keeping your room tidy without being told. It might be playing with brothers and sisters without arguing. How are you going to get ready for Christmas? How are you going to show someone that you care? *Pause for short reflection time.*

Thank the school for inviting you to be a part of their Christmas assembly.