



Christmas

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Additional Resources

PowerPoint presentation
Wrapped selection box parcel - 7 layers - with a chocolate and a question card under each layer
Question cards
Suggested Challenges cards
Seasonal music
Chocolates to give out as the pupils leave assembly
OR
The gift to include a large tin of sweets to share with the assembly

Pass the Parcel

Aim

- To think about why we give presents
- To explore the idea that the birth of Jesus was the first Christmas present

Introduction

Play music as pupils enter the hall. Introduce yourself and welcome pupils to assembly.

Slide 1 I pulled a cracker last Christmas and it said, 'What is the best Christmas present?' Any ideas? 'A broken drum - because you can't beat it!' It got me thinking. What is the best Christmas present? *Take variety of responses.*

Main Talk

For today's assembly I thought I'd use this. *Show the wrapped present.* It looks like a Christmas present. How do we know this is a Christmas present? *Take variety of responses.* The wrapping paper has a Christmas design on it and it's Christmas time. However, it's not actually a Christmas present! We're going to use this present to play a game together. We're going to play *Pass the Parcel* together. Pass the Parcel with a difference! As we take each layer off, it's going to help us think a little bit more about presents.

Play music and pass the parcel along the rows. When it gets to the end of the row, pass to the row behind. When the music stops, the person holding it takes off one layer. Each layer holds a chocolate for the pupil who has done the unwrapping and a question card for the assembly. Optional - you may wish to make the pupil who is about to unwrap the layer choose a fun challenge for them to do first. Why not have their class or year group join in the fun so they are not self-conscious!

Slide 2 *Under the first layer is Question Card One - What was your first present? Take a variety of responses.* Not many of us can think that far back! It may have been something you would have enjoyed playing with as a baby - a rattle or a teddy. You may even still have it!

Slide 3 *Under the second layer is Question Card Two - Why do we give presents? Take a variety of responses.* Presents are given for many reasons. They are given to celebrate an occasion: a birthday, an anniversary or a special event. They are given to celebrate an achievement. They can be given to say thank you. They are usually part of a happy event.



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Slide 4 *Under the third layer is Question Card Three - Why do we wrap presents? Take a variety of responses.* Wrapping gifts makes a gift look exciting. Anything could be under there. The shape can be a clue as to what the present is - but it can also trick you. Seeing a present that is wrapped instantly tells you that this is a gift. But are gifts always wrapped? Sometimes there is no time or not enough paper to wrap a present, or it may be too big or too awkward to wrap. Is an unwrapped present still a present?

Slide 5 *Under the fourth layer is Question Card Four - Should a present always be a surprise? Or should it be something you've asked for? Take a variety of responses.* Some people say what they want, and some people give lists. At other times gifts can be a complete surprise. Whether the gift is a surprise or not, the giver of the gift has spent time thinking about what you might like.

Slide 6 *Under the fifth layer is Question Card Five - Is there a gift that you are given every year? Take a variety of responses.* Every year I receive... I look forward to them!

Slide 7 *Under the sixth layer is Question Card Six - Can you remember all the gifts you have ever been given? Take a variety of responses.* I can't! But I do remember the ones that meant a lot to me, or the ones that were given to me by someone special, and I do try and remember to say thank you for each gift.

Under the seventh layer is the gift!

Christian Perspective

Slide 8 Now that we've had lots of fun thinking about presents, let's look at the question cards again. Christmas is celebrated by Christians all over the world, so let's think about these questions on a wider scale. *Click to reveal each heading.*

First Present: Well, let's think for a moment about the first ever Christmas gift. What do you think was the first Christmas gift? *Take a variety of responses.* Some may argue that Jesus was the first Christmas gift. His birth is celebrated on Christmas Day and Christians believe that he was given to the world by God.

Giving Presents: If Jesus was the first Christmas present, why was he given? Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God. God gave Jesus to the world because he wanted to show that he cares for us.

Wrapping Presents: Jesus' wrappings did not look very special. He didn't come as a king in a palace, or big like a warrior. He was just a little baby and his start in life was very poor - in a stable. He started his life just like us - as a baby. This humble start to life gave very little clues that when Jesus grew up he would change so many people's hearts and lives.

Surprise or Asked-For Presents: People had been looking forward to the arrival of the Son of God. But when he arrived it was still a surprise. Christians believe that Jesus came to bring us hope and to teach us how to love God and each other. Jesus was a gift that was very much needed and very much wanted.

Every Year: Christmas and the birth of Jesus are celebrated once a year. But Christians don't just think about Jesus only at Christmas time; he is a presence in their lives every day.





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Remembering Presents: We may not remember all our presents, but Christians do remember their first ever Christmas gift - the birth of Jesus. And every year at Christmas, when they celebrate his birth, they remember to say thank you to God for giving him.

Slide 9 Best Christmas Present: The very first question I asked was - 'What is the best Christmas present?' I wonder if you can guess what many Christians would say was their best Christmas present was? *Take a variety of responses.* I wonder what reasons they would give.

Challenge and Reflection

Slide 10 We have spent time thinking about the presents: why we give them, and why we wrap them. We've also been thinking the best Christmas present. The next time you see a present, take a moment to think about the first ever Christmas present the world received.

Pause for short reflection time.

You may wish to leave copies of the poppy resource sheet for the class teachers.

Thank the pupils and staff for letting you be a part of their assembly. You may wish to play seasonal music as the pupils leave - and have chocolates to give out.