



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

SPECIAL DAYS

PREPARATION

- ➔ In advance ask members to come with an idea of how to share the good news of Christmas with others
- ➔ Ask a member to come prepared to read John 1: 1-14 NIV
- ➔ Prepare to use the track '**Carolcade**' by Cambridge Heath Band (Salvation Army)
- ➔ Provide pens and paper for a quiz
- ➔ Cut up a set of Christmas charades
- ➔ Set up a Christmas tree or Christmassy area and provide paper-shaped stars, sticky tape, ribbon/string and pens
- ➔ Prepare some Christmas refreshments to enjoy together, maybe include a warm fruit punch

Additional resource

- ❖ *Christmas charades*

Please be aware of allergies.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Christmas is good news! The best news, in fact! It's when we get to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, God made flesh, God incarnate, God with us! In this session we will come together and celebrate love coming down at Christmas, what this means for us and how we can share this good news!

ACTIVITIES

PLAY

Spot the Christmas carols

This could be a fun way of starting your time together and getting into the Christmas spirit!

Play the Salvation Army march 'Carolcade' and invite members to make a list of all the Christmas carols they hear.

- ♪ '**Carolcade**' by Trevor Davis, Cambridge Heath Band (Salvation Army) (3:03)

We counted 11, but there could be more!



1. 'The bells ring out at Christmas time (Sweet chiming Christmas bells)'
2. 'O come, all ye faithful'
3. 'Good King Wenceslas'
4. 'Come children, come quickly'
5. 'Do you know the song that the angels sang (Glory in the highest)'
6. 'Hark! the herald angels sing'
7. 'We three kings of Orient are'
8. 'Ding dong! merrily on high'
9. 'Angels, from the realms of Glory'
10. 'We wish you a merry Christmas'
11. 'Deck the halls with boughs of holly'

Christmas charades

Using only Christmas carols or Christmas words, can members guess what is being mimed? Feel free to add your own ideas to the blank cards!

SHARE

Invite everyone to bring an idea of how to share the good news of Christmas with others. Remind everyone that the simplest ideas are often the best.

REFLECT

Ask members to consider how they have experienced God's love, God's love coming down to them. Encourage members to write their thoughts on the star-shaped paper and to make a paper decoration to hang on the tree.

ENJOY

End your time together with some Christmas refreshments - maybe a warm fruit punch and some biscuits or mince pies. Encourage members to share their favourite Christmas activities - but be sensitive as it can be a difficult time for some.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

At Christmas, love came down in the person of Jesus Christ

- 📖 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'



‘There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.’

‘The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.’

‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.’
(John 1: 1-14)

This familiar Bible passage from John’s Gospel is one we often hear at Christmas time. Unlike the Christmas story narratives found in Matthew and Luke - of Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels, wise men and stars - these verses, though familiar and whilst beautifully written, can seem quite confusing. What is this ‘Word’? What is this ‘light’? In the simplest terms, the ‘Word’, representing the only truth from the beginning of time, is God himself who sends his son Jesus, the light, into the world as a baby. As *The Message* paraphrase puts it:

📖 ‘The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.’
(John 1:14 *The Message*)

The baby Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas time, is the gift to us from God the Father, making light, love and hope visible in our world. This love is not just an idea, a concept, but a tangible gift, offered freely to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

We don’t deserve this gift. We can’t earn it. It’s freely given to us. It’s a gift of grace. And if we choose to accept this gift, then we are told we become children of God - we are welcomed into God’s family. Wow! What a gift! And what an opportunity to display God’s likeness, a family likeness - to be light, love and hope to others we meet, and invite them to join the family too.

Jesus was born into a world that was challenging. Poverty, injustice and oppression were the daily experiences of many of the people he encountered. Generations since have encountered similar experiences, and even in our relatively peaceful



Western lives, and even if finances are not a struggle, we know we are more anxious and fearful than previous generations. It's into this world, our worlds, that Jesus wants us to encounter him.

This Christmas let's reflect on our God incarnate, our God made flesh. Will we accept the gift of Jesus and join his mission of sharing love, light and hope in the dark places of our world, just where we are?

PRAYER

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in Heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.

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SONGS

- ♪ 'Love came down at Christmas'
[Choral lyric video](#) uploaded by ExaltHIMvdo (2:29)
[Rock lyric video](#) feat Jars of Clay by Easy Worship Resources (2:52)
- ♪ 'Noel' by Chris Tomlin
[Live video](#) (no lyrics) feat Lauren Daigle by ChrisTomlinMusic (4:18)
[Lyric video](#) feat Lauren Daigle uploaded by Cynthia (4:17)
- ♪ SASB 104 'Come, thou long expected Jesus [Sweet chiming bells]'
[Lyric video](#) by The Salvation Army Worship Arts Australia (2:28)
- ♪ SASB 113 'Joy to the world'
[Brass instrumental brass lyric video](#) by Pendleton Corps (1:27)
[Lyric video](#) by Reawaken Hymns (2:43)
[Lyric video](#) by Hillsong Worship (3:46)



WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect
- Family Ministries website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families
- Emails: familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily_ministries



Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | Adults | Everyone



CHARADES

Christmas charades

‘Love came down at
Christmas’

‘Silent Night’

‘Hark! the herald angels
sing’

‘Away in a manger’

‘The first noel’

‘Joy to the world’

‘O little town of
Bethlehem’

‘We three kings’

‘Angels we have heard on
high’

‘Ding dong! merrily on high’

‘While shepherds watched
their flocks’

‘Go, tell it on the
mountain’

Connect



‘It came upon the midnight
clear’

‘O holy night’

‘Little drummer boy’

‘I saw three ships’

‘We wish you a merry
Christmas’

‘Do you hear what I hear?’

‘Let it snow! Let it snow!
Let it snow!’

‘Rockin’ around the
Christmas tree’

‘Jingle Bells’

‘Frosty the Snowman’

‘Rudolph the red-nosed
reindeer’

‘Santa Claus is coming to
town’

Connect



'I saw Mommy kissing Santa
Claus'

'It's beginning to look a lot
like Christmas'

'The twelve days of
Christmas'

'Do they know it's
Christmas?'

Connect

