



RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

'Light up Christmas' is a free interactive resource for P5-7 from Scripture Union Scotland and Scripture Union Ireland, looking at what Christians believe about Christmas. The downloadable resource pack provides everything needed to run a fun and engaging programme, which can be delivered as one lesson or split into three parts. There is no preparation required, other than printing out some activities.

The programme is based around a series of three videos, which are summarised below. Detailed Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes for each episode can be found at the end of this document in Appendix 1.

Episode One: The Origins of Christmas

This episode explores the *why* behind the glitz and glam of Christmas, considering how the first Christmas fits with the narrative of the Old Testament. The Jewish people had been awaiting a Saviour for thousands of years since his coming was foretold in the Garden of Eden. All their history had pointed towards this moment!

Episode Two: The Unexpected Christmas

We look forward eagerly to Christmas each year, but that wasn't the case on the first Christmas because nobody knew it was coming! It was certainly a big surprise for Jesus' mum Mary to find out she would be the mother of the Messiah. How did she and her fiancé Joseph cope with this news? And is there actually a donkey in the Christmas story?!

Episode Three: The Christian Meaning of Christmas

Our knowledge of the Christmas story may stop with the baby in the manger, but this episode explores what happened next, between the first Christmas and the first Easter. Pupils are invited to consider what *they* believe about the meaning of Christmas.

Resource Pack

Light up Christmas comes with a set of supporting resources which you can select from to create your own programme. Each video episode is accompanied by:

- **Episode reflection sheets** in PDF format for printing
- **Episode quizzes** provided in PowerPoint format for display on a Smart Board or projector screen

There is also an ice breaker exercise to start your Light up Christmas lesson and bonus 'Christmas Jumper Creation' activity. You can select which elements to use or choose to use them all! All videos and resources can be found at lightupchristmas.org.uk, where you will be asked to fill out a simple registration form before selecting 'click here: Light up Christmas Resources'. The videos themselves are available to view on the website or on YouTube. If you would like to download them for use offline, you'll find a link in the description on YouTube.

Further details of the resource pack elements are detailed on the next page, alongside estimated timings and the Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes covered. You will also find an answers and suggestions sheet in Appendix 2.

To deliver this programme, you will need:

- A laptop and projector or smart board
- Print outs of Reflection sheets
- Scrap paper for Quizzes (for writing down answers)
- Colouring pens/pencils etc for the bonus craft activity



	Item	Content	Format	Timing	C for E E&Os
Part 1	Icebreaker activity	Tinsel and Traditions 1 The children answer questions to introduce the theme of Christmas	Power-Point	8 mins	LIT 2-02a, 2-09a, RME 2-01c
	Video	Episode 1: The Origins of Christmas	Video	7 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Quiz	Activity Option 1: Quiz The children will answer a number of questions as a class or in teams, based around the episode content	Power-Point	15 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a
	Reflection Sheet	Activity Option 2: Reflection Sheet Explores episode 1 themes. Encourages the children to respond in their own words	PDF (Print)	10-20mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a EXA 2-05a, 2-06a
Part 2	Video	Episode 2: The Unexpected Christmas	Video	7 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Quiz	Activity Option 1: Quiz The children will answer a number of questions as a class or in teams, based around the episode content	Power-Point	15 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a
	Reflection Sheet	Activity Option 2: Reflection Sheet Explores episode 2 themes. Encourages the children to respond in their own words	PDF (Print)	10-20mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a, 2-09a, 2-26a, 2-28a
Part 3	Video	Episode 3: The Christian Meaning of Christmas	Video	7 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a
	Quiz	Activity Option 1: Quiz The children will answer a number of questions as a class or in teams, based around the episode content	Power-Point	15 mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a
	Reflection Sheet	Activity Option 2: Reflection Sheet Explores episode 3 themes. Encourages the children to respond in their own words	PDF (Print)	10-20mins	RME 2-01a, 2-01b, 2-03b, 2-07a LIT 2-04a, 2-07a, 2-26a
	BONUS ACTIVITY Craft	Christmas Jumper Creation Using the template provided, design your own Christmas jumper	PDF (PRINT)	20 mins	EXA 2-05a, 2-06a

Appendix 1:

Detailed Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes for Episode content

Episode One: The Origins of Christmas

This episode considers the first Christmas and where it fits within the Christian understanding of the Old Testament (RME 2-07) including:

- Why we celebrate Christmas with gift giving and other traditions (RME 2-03b)
- The significance of Jesus being born and how that has shaped our calendar and when we take seasonal holidays (RME 2-03c)
- The biblical narrative of creation (RME 2-01a)
- The biblical narrative of the origin of human freewill and sin (RME 2-01b)
- God's plan for the redemption and restoration of the earth (RME 2-01b) including the formation of a people for himself in the Israelites (RME 2-01a)
- The history of the Jewish people (RME 2-01a)
- The key role of prophets and prophecy in Christianity, including the prophetic foretelling of the first Christmas (RME 2-03b)

Episode Two: The Unexpected Christmas

This episode explores the first ever Christmas (RME 2-07) including:

- The angel's appearance to Mary, and then Joseph, foretelling the birth of Jesus (RME 2-01a)
- Mary's personal faith (RME 2-01a)
- The experience of Jews under Roman rule (RME 2-01a)
- The prophecy that a Saviour would be sent by God (RME 2-03b)
- The historical account of Mary and Joseph's participation in the census (RME 2-03b)
- The unexpected nature of the Saviour (RME 2-01a)
- The first visitors to baby Jesus (RME 2-03b)
- The appearance of the angels to the shepherds (RME 2-01b)

Episode Three: The Christian Meaning of Christmas

This episode details Jesus' life between the first Christmas and the first Easter and invites pupils to draw their own conclusions about the meaning of Christmas (RME 2-07) including:

- Jesus' love of gathering to eat with people as we do at Christmas (RME 2-03c)
- The ministry of Jesus as described in the Bible, including miracles of multiplying food and drink, calming nature, power over sickness and evil spirits (RME 2-01b)
- The teaching of Jesus that his followers should be kind to enemies, forgive those who have hurt them and pray (RME 2-02a)
- Jesus' death and resurrection (RME 2-03b)
- A personal reflection on faith by the presenters (RME 2-02a/RME 2-07)