

BIBLE TIMELINE ASSEMBLIES

58. JESUS THE PERFECT GIFT

Bible Base 2 Corinthians 9: 15

Key Christian Belief: Jesus is God's gift to us.

Aim: To show why Christians believe Jesus is the perfect gift.

You will need:

- three 'disappointing' Christmas presents - as below.
- three large gift tags - each with one of the headings below written on it.

Introduction

Ask the children what gifts the children are looking forward to receiving at Christmas. Have they thought yet about what gifts they are going to give to others this year? Explain that Christians believe the reason we give and receive gifts at Christmas time is to remember how God gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus, who came into the world to take the blame for the wrong things in our lives so that we can be friends of God forever. Christians believe that Jesus is the perfect gift. There has never been a better gift than this!

Tell the children that you are going to show them some gifts that people in your family have already opened (or received last year) and were disappointed with - in order to help them understand why Christians believe that Jesus is the perfect gift.

Something We All Need

Show the first gift - a bottle of aftershave. Point out that it is a good brand, probably very expensive. Ask an older pupil, or a female teacher, to smell it and confirm that it smells really nice. So why would anyone be disappointed with this?

Ask your volunteer to say if they would be disappointed if they were given this bottle of aftershave as a present and hopefully they will say that they would be disappointed with it because they don't need aftershave. It would be no use to them!

Gifts that are no use to us are disappointing, aren't they? (Mention a few more examples - a jumper that is too small, a toy that doesn't work, an X-box game for someone who doesn't have an X-box.) Some presents are disappointing because they are no use to us. However - the gift that God has given us, the gift of His Son Jesus, is not like that.

Display the first gift tag: 'Something We All Need'

Christians believe that when God sent Jesus into the world, He sent Him to bring us something we all need. Joseph was told to call Mary's new baby Jesus - which means Saviour - because He had come 'to save His people from their sins'. All of us have said and done wrong things and the Bible teaches us that without God's forgiveness we cannot be His friends or live with Him in heaven. All of us need God's forgiveness - and the good news of Christmas is that that is exactly what Jesus came to bring!

Something No One Else Can Give

Show the second gift - a popular DVD that the children are likely to have seen and that some are likely to own. Ask the children if they have seen it and what they thought of it.

How many of them enjoyed it? Do they think it would be a good present to give someone their age? So why would anyone be disappointed with this as a gift?

Ask if any of the children have a copy of the DVD at home. Ask one of them to imagine you are giving them the copy in your hand for Christmas. Would they be disappointed? Hopefully they will say that they would be disappointed because they already have one!

It is disappointing when someone gives you a book, a DVD or a game that you already have. It is also disappointing if everyone buys you the same thing for Christmas. Mention some examples from your own experience - e.g. your tenth pair of socks! Thankfully, the gift that God has given us, the gift of His Son Jesus, is not like that either.

Display the second gift tag: 'Something No One Else Can Give'

Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son. There is no one else like Him. He was the only one who ever lived who never said, or did, or thought anything wrong. No one else could have done for us what Jesus did. No one else was good enough. It is only because He was willing to give His life for us that we can be forgiven. The gift of God's forgiveness is something no one else can give.

Something That Lasts

Display the third gift - an empty tin of chocolates. Explain that the chocolates were great while they lasted - you especially enjoyed the purple ones - but the problem was that in your family even a tin this size didn't last very long and now there are none left.

Some presents are great while they last - but are disappointing because they don't last very long; the sweets run out, the shoes don't fit any more, the toy is broken and can't be fixed. The gift that God has given us, the gift of His Son Jesus, is not like that either!

Display the third gift tag: 'Something That Lasts'

Christians believe that because of what Jesus has done for us we can be God's friends now and always. No one will ever be able to take His love away from us. One day we will go to be with Him in heaven forever. The gift of God's love and friendship lasts forever!

Exploring Christian Belief

Christians believe that Jesus is the perfect gift. The Bible tells us that He came to bring us God's forgiveness and that is something we all need. It is something only He can give and something that lasts forever. And Christians believe that if you choose to accept God's gift and welcome Jesus into your life, you will find Him to be the best gift you have ever received!

Prayer

Finish with a prayer thanking God for the gift of His love and friendship through Jesus.