

Christingle at Home

This year we can have a Christingle at home - You will need the following

- An orange each for everyone - adults as well - An adult can make a hole in the top for a candle.
- Soft sweets and dried fruit that can go on cocktail sticks
- Four cocktail sticks for each Christingle
- Red ribbon or red tape
- A candle for each Christingle



When you have all these things you are ready.

The Orange is the Created World

We begin with our orange.

The orange symbolises the world. God created the world and it was good. Here is a Bible reading to get you to thinking.

Genesis 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

The sweets and dried fruit are the good things in the world.

We then have the fruit/sweets

God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Jesus was with God when he made the world. The Bible says:

John 1

Through Jesus all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The Red Ribbon is Christ suffering

Careful with the cocktail sticks - not everything in the world was good and there were dangers. Jesus came to help us put those right, but people did not recognise that he was God. Here is a reading from the Bible.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

We did not receive him - means that people were nasty to him and he was hurt.

When you get to this point in making your Christingle, just pause and be very quiet and think about the red ribbon.

It is very sad. We have had a sad and difficult year.

When you look at it you can say a little prayer for anyone who is unhappy today.

The Candle is the Light

the story does not end in sadness and our Christingle is not finished. It needs the best bit: the candle.

Jesus is the Light of the World

John 1

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Everyone who welcomed him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Phil - The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

We can now put the best bit on our Christingles - the candles. This is the symbol for Jesus.

Now is the time to turn off the electric lights and light your Christingle.

We always sing something - you can sing along with *Away in a Manger*.

By the light of the candle, we can also pray these prayers. You can choose one person to be a leader and say the words in dark print and everyone else to reply.

Leader: Jesus, born in a stable.

All: Bring hope to the homeless.

L: Jesus, child of Mary and Joseph.

All: Bring hope to all families.

L: Jesus, light of the world.

All: Bring hope to this world's dark places.

L: Jesus, bearer of peace

All: Bring hope where there is war.

L: Jesus, who fled to another country

All: Bring hope to all refugees.

L: Jesus, who was hungry in the desert

All: Bring hope to all who are poor and starving.

L: Jesus, Son of God, Messiah

All: Bring hope this Christmas. Amen.



We have a last song for you - *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

When it is finished you can blow your candle out - but remember the light is in you. It shines out when you do something lovely for those around you.