



Christmas

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Additional Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Optional - Christmas music

You may wish to have Christmas music playing as the pupils enter and leave assembly.

A Salvation Army Christmas

Aim

To think about other people at Christmas

To learn what The Salvation Army does at Christmas

Introduction

Introduce yourself and welcome pupils to assembly.

It's starting to get closer to the school holidays and many of you might be getting ready for Christmas; special food is being bought, presents are being wrapped, and the house may have special decorations. What tells you it is almost Christmas? *Take a variety of suggestions.*

I notice some suggestions are very similar - things that we get and have. But some of your ideas need family or friends. Food, family and friendship seem to be a big part of our Christmas celebration.

Today I'm going to tell you about a Salvation Army Christmas that includes food, family and friendship.

Main Talk

A long time ago, the man who helped start The Salvation Army, William Booth, was going home to his wife and children. It was Christmas Day and William had been preaching in church. He was looking forward to going home and celebrating Christmas with his family.

You can imagine how busy and excited everyone was home! The whole family had been working hard all week to get everything ready.

When William got home, the celebrations started. There was food, presents, decorations and games. The children were having such a lovely time!

William tried to have a fun and merry time with his family, but his family could see that his heart wasn't in it.

So they asked what was wrong, and what had happened to change his mood. William explained that he felt he could not enjoy such a happy time with his family, because when he was on his journey home he had seen people who were so poor that they had nothing to celebrate Christmas with.

The family then decided that they would share their Christmas with other people. And that is what they did. Each Christmas was spent helping others enjoy Christmas, by giving food and friendship.

The giving of food and friendship is how a lot of members of The Salvation Army spend their Christmas, making sure other people are not alone, not forgotten, and not hungry.





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It could be a lunch for older people, who have no one to spend Christmas with.

Maybe it is a Christmas party for parents and children who have little money.

It could be a Christmas present appeal, so parents who have little money can still give a gift to their child.

Maybe it is a Christmas dinner for people who are homeless.

You may wish to share what your own corps does at Christmas.

Why do you think The Salvation Army helps others at Christmas? *Take a variety of answers.*

Christian Perspective

Christians are taught in the Bible to ‘love your neighbour’ (Matthew 19:19).

One way The Salvation Army shows love to others is by sharing food and friendship, especially at Christmas, when people can feel lonely.

Challenge and Reflection

How can you show other people that you care? What can you do to show friendship to others? How can you make sure no one is feeling left out? Think about people you know - classmates, your friends and your family. What can you do to think about others?

Pause for a short reflection time.

Thank the pupils and staff for letting you be a part of their assembly.