

Short Talk

(SHT053)

Celebrating Christmas

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SHORT TALK: “CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS” (SHT053)

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| Aim of Short talk: | To use things most associated with Christmas to point to the real meaning of Christmas. |
| Main themes: | Christmas, second coming of Jesus |
| Biblical references: | Luke 2:1-20, John 1:9, 3:16, 17:3, Revelation 19:9 |
| Props: | Christmas lights, carol sheet, a couple of wrapped up Christmas presents, photo of Christmas family gathering, a plate of mince pies and a glass of wine / schoer. |

.....
How many of you are looking forward to celebrating Christmas?

- I am and I have brought some things along today to help us remember what we are really celebrating.

I need five volunteers to come and help me please. *(Five volunteers come forward and you organise them into a line along the front)*

- My first volunteer is going to hold the **Christmas decorations**.
- Many of us enjoy decorating our homes in preparation for Christmas don't we?so let's decorate *N (name of volunteer)*
- We'll wrap some lights round *N* and plug *N* in *(wrap Christmas lights around N, plug in and switch on!)perfect.*

So how can our Christmas decorations remind us of the real meaning of Christmas?

- As our Christmas lights flash and sparkle, they can remind us that Christmas is about Jesus, God's own Son, leaving the glories of heaven and coming into the world as the true light for all.

My second volunteer is going to hold the **Christmas Carol sheet**. *(Give carol sheet to second volunteer. If they are a singer, you might like to encourage them to sing a line of a Carol!)*

- We enjoy singing carols don't we?
- But carols aren't simply a Christmas tradition.....they help us praise God because He has done something wonderful for us in sending Jesus to us.

On the night that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep in the fields.

- Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them and told them that he was bringing good news. This is what he said: *“Today in the town of David a **Saviour** has been born to you”* (Luke 2:11)
- And then a whole load of angels sang praises to God – they sang the first Christmas carol: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”* (Luke 2:14) I bet it sounded amazing!

So our Christmas carols help us worship God for giving us our Saviour.

My third volunteer is going to hold some **Christmas presents**. *(Give a couple of wrapped Christmas presents to fourth volunteer)*

- Most of us enjoy receiving presents don't we?
- We look forward to receiving something special from the people who love us.

So our Christmas presents can remind us that God has given us the very best present of all when He gave us Jesus.

- For as Saviour, Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life.....a relationship with our Heavenly Father, where we can know Him and where we can be fully known. (John 17:3)
- This gift of eternal life is satisfying and fulfilling and meets our deepest needs and there is no better gift.

My fourth volunteer is going to hold the photograph of the **Christmas family gathering**.
(Give photo of Christmas family gathering to third volunteer)

- Many of us enjoy getting together with our families over Christmas don't we?
- So how can our family gatherings remind us of the real meaning of Christmas?

When we receive God's gift of eternal life, we are brought into His family where we have brothers and sisters, people who know and love God too.

- We are part of the largest family on earth.....where we can give and receive love.

And finally my fifth volunteer is going to hold some **Christmas food and drink**. (Give a plate of mince pies and a glass of wine to fifth volunteer.....you might allow them to sample the mince pies etc!)

- Christmas is a great time to enjoy special food and drink. Some of us save up all year to have special Christmas treats.

So our special food can remind us that although Jesus came to earth as a baby the first time, one day, He is going to return as the King of Kings.

- Those who have received him and loved him in this life will be invited to the biggest party thrown. Revelation 19:9 puts it like this: "*Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!*"

So, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas let our:

- **Christmas decorations** remind us that Jesus, God's own Son came into the world as the true light for all.
- Let our **Christmas Carols** help us worship God for giving us our Saviour
- Let our **Christmas presents** lead us to receiving His gift of eternal life and thanking Him for the best present of all,
- Let our **Christmas family gatherings** make us grateful for God's family where we can be loved and
- Let our **Christmas food and drink** bring us hope that one day Jesus will be coming back to earth, and we will be invited to his great celebration.

Have a wonderful Christmas. (Send back your volunteers)