

# Christingle Service Talks 2016



## Quiz: NAME SOURCES OF LIGHT (SLIDE)

Lots of sources of light – in old days just sun, but v. Powerful – anyone how many watts of power sun produces?

If no answer: 382 million, 382 million billion or 382 million billion billion?

Sun is powerful, but today we're thinking about true light, God's son, (S) who came to us. This is what we celebrate in Christingle.

Also reminds us that don't always live in his light – lead to Confession.

## **Talk: The Light of the world**

### **HOLD CHRISTINGLE**

Who's watching Planet Earth at moment? Extraordinary images (S).

Reminds us what a beautiful world God created! Let's recap on our Christingle: **the orange of our Christingle represents the world** – this beautiful world God has made. (What do the 4 sticks represent?) The seasons which God has wonderfully provided; seasons which in the UK bring warmth, water and plenty of food.

**On the sticks** we place examples of God's provision; but I like to **keep one stick empty** to remind me of people in our world who don't have enough to eat today, even at Christmas.

We live in a world which contains much beauty; but a world which also contains mess, hatred, and war. We can think of many places like that at the moment (examples – think of the people suffering in Aleppo in Syria, or those trying to return to their homes in Mosul, or people in refugee camps fleeing violence and hunger all over the world). For years people have done terrible things to other people.

Ever since God created men and women, we have rejected God's ways. God loves peace. God loves truth. God loves patience. God loves kindness. God loves generosity. God loves faithfulness. God loves self-control. God loves his creation, but all too often we reject God's ways; all too often we choose the path of darkness rather than the path of light...

**So 2000 years ago God himself came and lived amongst us. God came and lived amongst us as the baby Jesus // but he didn't stay a baby: he grew up to be Jesus the man.**

When Jesus the baby grew up he said **(S)**, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). That’s why **in the top of the Christingle we have a white candle**, reminding us of those words of Jesus.

**[At this point I light the candle on my Christingle]**

On another occasion Jesus said, “I have come into the world as a light so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness” (Jn 12:46).

The problem is that many people wanted to get rid of Jesus – think of the Pharisees in our bible passage. ‘Who are you?’ (not an open question, more a challenge – just who do you think you are?) Lots of people still do! He was the most amazing baby and the most amazing man who ever lived but he challenged people’s selfish attitudes, so they arrested him, strapped him to a cross and killed him. The light of the world went out.

**[At this point I blow out the candle on my Christingle]**

**The red ribbon** reminds us of the blood of Jesus, but it also reminds me that by sending Jesus God was wrapping his arms right around us and around the world he loves so much to remind us of his great love.

On the cross it seemed like the light of Jesus had gone out, but three days later he burst from the tomb!

**[At this point I re-light the candle]**

Jesus was too good to stay dead. He was and still is the light of the world. Christians today worship the risen Lord Jesus; Jesus the baby who became Jesus the man who died and rose again for us and for the whole world; Jesus who said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12) .

**My prayer for each one of you is that this Christmas and each day you will know and will be open to Jesus, the light of the world. Amen!**

