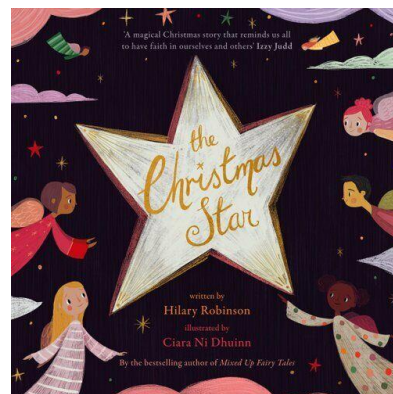


The Christmas Star Collective Worship

These ideas are all based on the book [‘The Christmas Star’](#) by Hilary Robinson. At the time of writing, there are no versions of this on You Tube, but the accompanying PowerPoint contains images from the book to support you in reading the book with your class or in school collective worship.



Gathering

Play the Christmas Star music as pupils enter the hall, or as they settle in your classroom. (Link on slide 1)

Follow your normal school routine for lighting candles, opening prayers etc

Engaging

Start worship by showing the pupils two wrapped presents. One is large and beautifully wrapped, the other small and uninteresting. Ask pupils which they would choose and ask two children to open them. Reveal that the attractive looking one has something boring inside such as elastic bands or paperclips, while the dull one has something exciting inside. (Use your imagination here, according to the age and interests of your children!)

What do they think this teaches us? Ask pupils to share their ideas with a partner. Draw out the idea that you can't necessarily judge by appearances, something small and ordinary might prove better than something that looks exciting on the outside.

Read 'The Christmas Star' and use the PowerPoint slides 2 – 11 to help pupils focus on the story. Ask pupils to 'babble gabble' the story – turn to a partner and take it in turns to retell the story really quickly to each other.

What do children think the main message of the book is? Their answers might include everyone has a role to play, however small they are. It's important to trust people – and to be trustworthy. Stars are a symbol of hope. There's always light shining in the darkness.

Responding

(Slide 12) Why were some of the angels unsure about asking the star to light the way to the stable? It was very small and had never done anything like this before.

Were they right to assume that the star wouldn't be able to do the job?

Click again to show the star's words about not judging by appearances. Can the children put this idea into their own words?

How do they think the story of the Christmas Star links to the two presents at the start of worship? Some of the angels thought the star was too small and insignificant to do an important job like showing the way to the stable, the star asked them not to judge by appearances, but to trust that it could do the job properly.

Ask pupils to sit quietly and think about a time when they might have judged somebody else and thought that they weren't big enough, or clever enough, or talented enough for a particular job.

Ask them to think about a time when they've thought that they weren't big enough or clever enough or talented enough to do something.

Remind them that the story tells us that we are all stronger and more capable than people think we are – or than we think we are. We can all be part of God's story, whoever we are. (Slide 13) The Bible says that God looks at our hearts – what we're like on the inside – rather than our outward appearance. Some children may remember the story of David, who was chosen to be king of Israel, even though he was smaller and younger than any of his brothers.

Ask the children to sit quietly while you read the prayer on slide 14 – or ask one of the older pupils to read it out. Invite them to say Amen at the end if they agree with the words in the prayer.

Dear God,
Thank you that we can all be part of your story,
No matter how big or small we are,
No matter what we look like,
No matter who we are.
Please help us all to shine for you,
Today, this week and in the future.
Amen.

Sending

The Christmas star was given a chance to shine. Because the angels trusted it to do the job well, it shone in the night sky and showed the way to Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

How can we shine like stars in the week ahead? Show slides 15 – 16 and ask pupils how they think someone might shine in these situations, such as looking after someone who's feeling sad, helping someone who's got too much to do etc. Invite pupils to look out for opportunities to take on responsibility, show kindness or help others in the next few days. Perhaps the adults in school could look out for children who are shining like stars and reward them with a star or something similar.

Finish with your normal school routine and play the Christmas Star music again as children leave.