

Chapter 14 Christmas

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

Christmas

Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 32)

Overview

In this chapter the children will learn that at Christmas the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 463 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

What was your most memorable celebration of Christmas? Why?

In some of our cultural settings, we are apt to think of Christmas as one single day rather than an entire season. For the Church, however, Christmas Day is a beginning: the beginning of the Christmas season.

For about two weeks we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, the coming of the Word made flesh to us. As we profess in the Nicene Creed,

“ . . . for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.”

Each day of the Christmas season renews the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the northern hemisphere, the Christmas season is a celebration of light at the darkest time of the year. The traditional Christmas lights of this season remind

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter's correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

us that Jesus, “the light [which] shines in the darkness,” (John 1:5) is the true light that enlightens our lives every day of this season and throughout the year. Jesus truly is light for all people.

The feasts of this season reflect the light of Christ, each in its own way. As we celebrate the feasts of the Holy Innocents, the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord, we rejoice in the everlasting truth that Jesus Christ is our light and our life. Each day of the Christmas season we have reason to sing: “Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord” (Christmas antiphon).

Throughout the Christmas season how will you celebrate that Jesus Christ is our light and our life?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps


Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 121
Introduce the Season

- Read the *Chapter Story*.
- Introduce the Christmas season.
- Proclaim words on the banner.


 "Jesus, Come to Us," David Haas, #15, Grade 1 CD

page 122

- Share responses to the question.

2 WE BELIEVE


pages 122–123
At Christmas the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus.

- Present the text about Christmas.
-  Act out the Scripture story about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

- costumes and props (optional)


3 WE RESPOND


page 124

-  Do the activity about choosing acts of love as gifts.

- crayons or colored pencils

Text page 125
Guide page 125–126
We Respond in Prayer

- Rejoice in Jesus and proclaim Scripture.
-  Respond in song.

- prayer space items: white tablecloth, Christmas-stable figurines, chart paper titled: *We Pray at Christmas for*, bells
-  "Joy to the World," #16, Grade 1 CD

Text page 126
Guide pages 125–126, 126A
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Complete the Reproducible Master 14 activity. See guide pages 126A and 121C.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 126B.

- pencils
- copies of Reproducible Master 14, guide page 126A
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 126B

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com