

Follow up activities



These activities follow on from the Christmas assembly and are suggestions to help develop the theme of gifts within a classroom setting. There is also an activity around gender equality to give an introduction to this topic.

Activity 1

Ask pupils to draw a picture of an adult who is important in their life, maybe a parent, carer, teacher or friend. Then ask them to think of the gifts or special qualities that person has and write them around the outside of the picture. They could even make a frame and give it as a Christmas present!

Activity 2

Encourage pupils to make a voucher book using some of their own gifts as an alternative Christmas present for a loved one. Could they offer to do the washing up for a week, or play a board game with a sibling?

Activity 3

There are many reasons why women in poverty find it challenging to provide for their families, but gender inequality plays a large part.

True/False

Set up an imaginary line across the classroom with 'true' at one end and 'false' at the other end. Pupils should listen to the statement and move to the end of the line they think is correct, or stay in the middle if they don't know.

1. Across the world, most of the people who own land and property are male. **[TRUE]**
2. In the poorest households, 1 in 3 girls don't go to school. **[TRUE]**
3. Men are five times more likely than women to become a member of parliament. **[TRUE]**
4. In some countries, 30% of girls are married before they reach 15. **[TRUE]**
5. No female athletes appear in the 100 highest-earning athletes. **[TRUE]**

Discuss these facts with the class. Is life different for girls in the UK? Are there areas of gender inequality here (think particularly about sports opportunities or equal pay)? How has gender equality changed over time in the UK, and how were these changes made (for example, the suffragette movement and the impact it had)?



Biblical stories

This activity relates more closely to the biblical Christmas story.

Part one

When Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, they also remember how his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, took great care of him. They followed God's instructions even though they didn't fully understand the angel's message and what it would mean for their lives.

Ask pupils to reflect on the Christmas story thinking particularly about the key characters. In groups, make a list of the characteristics and qualities shown by each. Pupils could draw a large portrait of a character and write their qualities around the outside. What ones are chosen for Mary, the mother of Jesus?

Part two

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Jesus' childhood but there is one significant story about him when he was 12 years old: the story of Jesus in the temple. In this story, Mary and Joseph go on another journey, this time to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Read a child friendly version of the boy Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52) and explore the story with pupils particularly looking at the events through Mary's eyes.

As you listen to the story create a mood graph (fortune line) to reflect Mary's responses. What qualities do you see in Mary now? Do you think this incident would have helped Mary make sense of the angel's visit and significance of Jesus' birth?

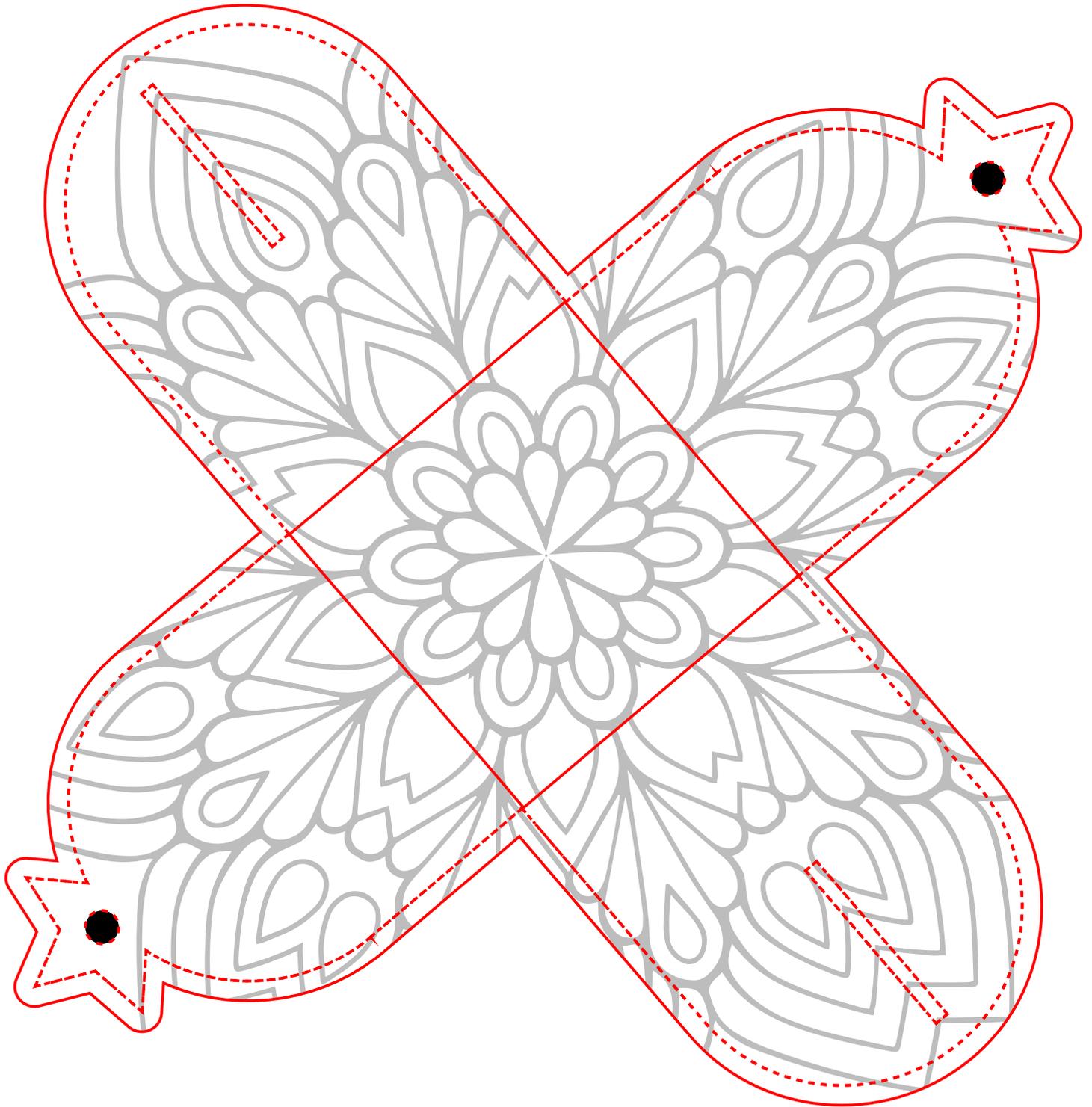
The story says Mary kept these memories, like treasure, in her heart – perhaps this helped her recognise the role that Jesus would have in the future. When Jesus grew up he taught people about God, and about what a community filled with God's love might look like.

Jesus taught his followers that God cares for humans in the way that a parent or carer loves their children and looks after them. Christians believe every human is unique and valuable, each possessing their own wonderful gifts and talents.

Discuss how these beliefs might have an impact on the life of an individual Christian or a church community. Why might these beliefs inspire a Christian to support the work of Christian Aid? If appropriate, prepare questions to ask a Christian visitor about how they try to put their faith into action.

Activity 4

Use this gift box decoration to think about your own gifts. You can choose either side of the box to decorate with colour, images, words or prayer.



Gift box decoration activity



Instructions

1. Carefully cut the gift box shape out of the card.
2. Fold the four edges of the gift box into the centre, along the fold lines on the side of your choice.
3. Gently push the sides with the tabs towards each other and pinch the tabs together.
4. Push and hook one of the remaining sides over the tabs using the slit.
5. Repeat with the final side to seal up the gift box.