

**GOD IS
LORD AND KING**

**Christmas
Term 4
Year 3**

Christmas stories from around the world:

Saint Nicholas

Long ago, in Holland, lived a man called Saint Nicholas. He had a very important position in the church. Nicholas had a kind heart. Even though he was very busy, he did not forget about poor people. He wanted to help them.

It was almost Christmas. Nicholas was sad because he knew of many boys and girls who would not receive any Christmas gifts. Their parents did not have enough money to buy them.

Then he had an idea. Nicholas was very good at making things. "Yes," he thought. "I'll set to work and make some gifts for these children."

Nicholas worked hard, for he hadn't much time. It was only a few weeks until Christmas. He hammered and chiselled away in his workshop making toy trains, dolls and little horses.

When it was almost Christmas he gathered up the toys and set off for the homes of the poor children. He didn't want anyone to know who had made the toys so he delivered them secretly, slipping them quietly through open windows or leaving them on doorsteps.

What happiness Nicholas brought to those children that Christmas. Nicholas continued to make toys for poor children every Christmas, but he always delivered the toys in secret.

Jesus said that when we do something for others, we shouldn't boast about how good we are, or expect a reward. That's why Nicholas didn't tell anyone who had made the toys. Nicholas could have forgotten about the poor children because he was so busy working for the church. But he didn't. He wanted to help. That's really being a servant.

Activities - Saint Nicolas

1. How do we know that St. Nicholas a kind person?
2. What kind things did he do?
3. St. Nicholas didn't want people to know that he had made the toys so he delivered them in secret. Why did he do this?
4. What might a proud person do?
5. What is a servant?

Christmas stories from around the world: Good King Wenceslas

This is a true story of a king who chose to serve others despite his high position.

One cold, snowy day, about Christmas time, King Wenceslas looked out of his window and saw deep snow all about. The moon was shining brightly, and he could see someone slowly walking along. It was a poor man in old clothes. The king saw that the man was stooping down to collect fire wood, but the wood was wet from being buried under the snow.

"That will not make a good fire," thought the king.

The king had a page boy. He was a sort of junior servant. The king called for the page boy.

"Do you know this man?" asked the king.

"Yes," said the boy. "He and his family live up on the hill."

"Then help me to take some things to his family," said the king.

The king gathered up some of his own good fire wood, and also packed some roast beef. The two set off in the bitterly cold wind. The king went first, carrying the wood, and the page boy followed, carrying the meat. The sky grew darker and the wind blew harder. The page boy found that he could hardly walk because the snow was so deep. When he put his feet into the snow he could hardly pull them out again.

"I can't go on," he said to the king.

"Never mind, boy," said the king. "Just watch my footsteps. Walk directly behind me and place your feet in my footprints."

So at last they made it to the poor man's house. When the poor man arrived home with his wet fire wood, to his surprise, he found a fire blazing and a good Christmas dinner of roast beef waiting for him.

Activities – Good King Wenceslas

1. What was wrong with the firewood the poor man was collecting?
2. What is a page boy?
3. How did the page boy help?
4. What did the king gather up to take to the poor man?
5. Why was the journey hard?
6. What did the king do for the page boy when he could walk no longer?
7. What surprise was waiting for the poor man when he arrived home?
8. What kind of king would you say King Wenceslas was?
9. What does Jesus say?
- 10 . If you want to be great in God's kingdom then you must become a _____ . (Matthew 20:26)
10. Which of these things will make a person greatest in God's kingdom? (Choose the best answers)
 - Having beautiful clothes.
 - Being rich.
 - Being an important person in the church.
 - Telling God, "I'm sorry."
 - Telling God that you need Him.
 - Being really clever.
 - Admitting that you have a lot to learn.
 - Being a good runner.
 - Being kind.
 - Being humble.
 - Knowing Jesus.

Christmas stories from around the world: Piccola's Christmas present

Piccola was a little girl who lived in France. Her family was poor, so Piccola did not have many clothes. Sometimes they had very little food. But Piccola was happy, because her Mum and Dad loved her. It is love inside your heart than makes you happy.

Piccola's Dad was worried because he could not afford to buy a Christmas present for his little girl. But Piccola believed that she would not be forgotten, and that she would get a Christmas present, so on Christmas Eve she put out her slipper, hoping that a Christmas present would be put into it. This made her Mum and Dad sad, because they knew they had no present to put in the slipper.

Early next morning, when the morning light came through the window, Piccola got out of bed and went to look in her slipper. She picked it up, and in there was the most wonderful present. There, tucked away in the slipper was a tiny bird. It had flown in through the window, right into the warm shoe.

Piccola was so happy. It was the perfect present! Her father and mother were full of joy because Piccola was so happy.

"It's cold and hungry," said Piccola. "I will warm it and feed it." She warmed it by the fire and fed it on crumbs of bread. Soon the little bird began to fly about and cheep. The little bird stayed with Piccola for a long time, and it cheeped every day with happiness.

Activities

1. What is the weather like in France at Christmas?
2. How did the little bird get into the slipper?
3. How did Piccola care for the little bird?
4. How would you feel if you were Piccola on Christmas morning?