

Christingle Bingle!

The people	Fruit	Who hides in the oven?	Llama	Band
Arthur	Cream	walking in darkness	4	Fudge
Red	Nostril	Jesus	have seen a	Orange
Hammer-head shark	Candle	great light	Sprout	25.12
Flame	Isaiah	Mince spies	Sweets	9:2

When you hear one of these words or phrases, circle it.

**When you have five in a row, shout
CHRISTINGLE BINGLE!**

Lines can go up and down, side to side or diagonally.

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Orange	Norman	Which reindeer has bad manners?	Band	The Lord
O Holy Sock	Sweets	will be your	4	Big toe
Sprout	Candle	Jesus	Rudolph	Gerbil
ever- lasting light	Beige	and your days of sorrow	Red	Flame
will end	42	Isaiah	60:20	Fruit

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How do snow men get around?	The light	Polka dots	4	shines in the darkness
Kipper	and the darkness	Fruit	Armpit	Bubble gum
Sweets	Red	Jesus	Flame	Candle
31½ million	Sprout	has not over- come it	Orange	By icicle
Band	John	Red-eyed tree frog	1:5	Fred

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Gnu	Where do snow- men dance?	Orange	I am	Red
Quirky	the light of the world	Fruit	Knee- caps	Neville
Candle	Gold	Jesus	Flame	whoever follows me will
Pi	never walk in dark- ness	Band	Ferret	John
Sweets	8:12	4	At a snow ball	Sprout

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CHRISTINGLE BINGLE!**

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Christingle Bingle

(It's easier to say than Christingle Bingo)

You all have a Christingle Bingle card and a pen, I hope. Whenever you hear one of the words or phrases on your card, circle it, and when you have five in a row, shout CHRISTINGLE BINGLE!

Let's have a quick practice - 'CHRISTINGLE BINGLE!'

Lines can go up and down, side to side or diagonally, so listen carefully, and here we go:

Welcome to our Christingle service at NAME. You're probably thinking one of two things. Either "Here we go again. How's s/he going to find a way to explain the Christingle that wasn't done last year or the year before or the year before that?" Or you're thinking, "What on earth is a Christingle?"

Well, 'on earth' is very good place to start. We all live here and it's the only one we've got, so to start our Christingle, we'll use an **orange** to represent the earth. [*hold up orange*]

Orange. Did you spot that?

Now, around the orange is something of another colour. What colour do you think it is?

Red, that's right. So I'll add a strip of red all the way around the world. [*add red band*]

Sometimes we use a ribbon, to remind us that the world is a gift to us from God. Sometimes we use sticky tape to remind us that the world is broken, and needs fixing. But whichever we use, the red **band** speaks of God's love which reaches all around the globe to all people, a wonderful gift of love to all of us who are broken and need fixing.

I hope you're keeping up. That's three words you should have circled now. Is anyone getting close to a line?

We need more things on our Christingle. We need a number of things all the same. How many do you think? [*fend off funny answers*]

It's **four**. We have four sticks in the Christingle [*add sticks*].

We have four of them to represent the four seasons, or the four directions - North, South East and West - and so they cover all of time and space.

The sticks are loaded with good things to eat, reminding us that God gives us good gifts, wherever and whenever we are. Sometimes we use **fruit** and sometimes we use **sweets**, but whether it comes from a tree or from a shop, we can thank God for the good things in life.

How are you doing? Is anyone close to five in a row?

Finally, on top of the Christingle is a **candle**. [*add candle then light it*]

We light the candle and the **flame** reminds us of the one who is the reason for the season. The one whose birthday we are celebrating. The baby born in Bethlehem.

His name? Not quite yet. First, let's hear what the Bible has to say about light.

Hundreds of years before the first Christmas, **Isaiah** looked at the world around him. He saw that God's good world had become broken. The light that God spoke into being at the very start of time had become dim, and people were wandering around in the dark.

It kinda sounds a bit like today and a bit like me, if I'm honest.

Isaiah looked forward to a time when God would restore the broken world and bring light to the people. Some of you have Isaiah's words on your cards. In Isaiah **9:2** he said, **The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.**

But where would this light come from? Isaiah had some thoughts on that, too. It would be God himself, bringing a light that could never be dimmed. **The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.** Isaiah **60:20**

What a wonderful promise!

We move forward to the New Testament and **John** starts his gospel with a poem about light, and how God would bring that light to real people like you and me. Linking back to when God spoke light to dispel the dark, John said, **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** John **1:5**

But how can we see that light? We need a real person, one like us so that we can relate, yet one who is God as well, so that he can be our light.

Who could possibly fit the bill?

Two thousand years ago he was born as a vulnerable baby. He grew to be a man and spoke of God's promise to restore light and hope. And he, himself, was that hope and that light. **I am the light of the world**, he said. **Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.** John **8:12**

His name? [*dramatic pause*] **Jesus.**

All - ***Christingle Bingle!***

Christingle Bingle Words

The four different cards each contain the eight words below describing the Christingle. Four of the words on each card will make a line through the centre square, so that all four cards will complete a line of five at the same time with the word 'Jesus'.

The other four words, plus one of the Bible verses about light, are scattered about the grid, and do not make lines. The remaining squares are filled with random words, numbers and cracker jokes.

In case you are wondering, 25.12 is the date of Christmas Day. 42 is the answer to life, universe and everything. 31½ million is how many seconds there are in year and pi is just delicious (especially if you have three and bit of them).

Orange

Red

Band

Four

Fruit

Sweets

Candle

Flame

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. Isaiah 60:20

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness. John 8:12

Jesus