

2017 CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION AND ACTIVITY PLAN



2013 Winning entry

Church Army's Christmas theme this year is 'Joy to Our World'. We are celebrating the joy that knowing Jesus brings to our world and the vital role Church Army evangelists play in bringing people into a living relationship with Jesus.

If you want an easy activity for your children or your kids' Sunday group then why not take part in our Christmas Card Competition? You'll be in with a chance to have your card sent to over 1000 people including all the UK and Ireland Anglican Archbishops, Bishops and the Queen!

There will be 24 runners up whose work will be used in Church Army social media throughout Advent. Entry is open to 4 to 15 years olds. Judging for runners up will be in 4-8 and 9-15 age brackets.

Closing date is 31 October 2017

COMPETITION

Design a Christmas card for Church Army.

All you need to do is think about what Joy means to you, use the song *Joy to the world* to help you think about the joy that Jesus brings and then design a card using your thoughts and ideas.

Entry requirements

The picture must be on A4 paper, either landscape or portrait. Please do not include any dates on the design (for example 'December 2017').

On the back of your picture, please write:

Your name

Your age

One sentence explaining your image and why you designed it

You will need

- Lyrics to Joy To The World (attached)
- Your thoughts on what Joy To The World means to you
- Blank A4 paper
- Pens, crayons, pencils and arts and craft materials.
- Consent forms for parents to sign (found at the web address below)
- A stamped envelope, to send the cards to:
*Christmas card competition, Church Army,
Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield S3 7RZ*

For full instructions and parental consent forms see www.churcharmy.org/christmascard

Please ensure that no entries are sent in without the parents' consent form and that each entry has the child's name, age and a sentence explaining their image and why they designed it.

Please note we can't send entries back so do take photos or make copies if you want to save them before you send them.

ACTIVITY PLAN

As part of your session to design a card, here are some ideas to go alongside the creative work.

Song Time

“Joy to the World” by Isaac Watts

Bible Passage

Luke 2 v 1 – 14 (The angels tell the shepherds about the birth of Jesus)

Games

JOY RUN: Children scatter around a large designated area and the teacher tells the children to do a JOYFUL RUN from one side of the room to another, but if the teacher says to do SAD RUN, children will slow down and look SAD. Keep changing from fast, JOYFUL run to SAD and slow run!

JOYFUL FACE HUNT: The teacher should place JOYFUL faces around the room and children hunt for those faces and the parts of today’s Bible passage that are on each face. Then the children put the JOYFUL faces in order, to re-create the Bible passage. If time allows, the faces can be mixed up once again and children can re-tell the passage, and place in correct order again.

THE BEAN GAME: Play the bean game as normal (someone calls bean types e.g – runner bean - they run on the spot, jumping bean - jump on the spot, baked bean – act really hot etc) but substitute types of beans for different emotions such as joyful, anxious etc. The last one to do the action is out. Clarify the moves together e.g. Joy – jump up and down cheering, sad – pretend to cry etc.

Card design

Remember to leave plenty of time to design the card, or let them take it home to finish and return it to you next week.

Joy to the World Lyrics

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, nature sing.
Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessing flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.