

# Unterrichtseinheit/Topic: Christmas

Level: Sekundarschule I Klasse      6/7    Beginner      A2/B1 or  
8/9    Intermediate      B2/C1

Time: 1 x 90 mins lesson

Aims:

- To develop learners' active vocabulary.
- To develop learners' awareness of different responses to presents.
- To develop learners' listening and watching and readings skills further.
- To develop students ability to talk about about their (dream) pets.
- To make students think about the meaning of Christmas and in giving and getting presents.

Introduction: This topic is about giving and getting things for Christmas. Sometimes people react enthusiastic about the presents they get but this enthusiasm wears off quite often. Many people respond happily to the baby Jesus in the Christmas story but forget about him later on in life.

## Unterrichtsverlauf/Lesson Plan

### Warm Up (10 mins)

Write the word: C H R I S T M A S on the white board.

Pair work: Ask the learners to make words with the last letter of the word (no names and to make it more difficult: words that should have something to do with Christmas) like:

Person A	Person B	Person A	Person B	Person A	Person B	
Christmas	sister	roast	tree	eating	gifts	...

When a person can't think of another new word then their partner scores a point and they start the next game using "a", then "m" then "t" etc. spelling Christmas backwards.

### Demonstration (10 mins)

Hand some of the learners wrapped up presents (some special ones and some boring ones like a potato) and ask the persons to open them (but not to keep them). The others should carefully watch these people.

Now discuss with the class:

What kind of feelings do their faces express when they begin to open a present?

What kind of feelings do they express when they see what is inside. Are they excited, happy, disappointed or bored or angry?

### Listening and watching skills (5 mins)

Watch this video clip (4:05) about different people getting a pet for Christmas.

<https://.youtube.com/watch?v=SdNWGGP4kTY>

### Discussion with the class (5 mins)

Who are the people who are getting pets?

What are their reactions?

Ask if some of your students would also like to get a pet for Christmas.

### **Talking (10 mins)**

Pair work: Learners should then talk about their real pet or the pet they would love to have! Their talk should include these items which you can present on the whiteboard:

- What is its name?
- What kind of pet is it?
- What colour is it?
- Is it male or female?
- What does it need for food or care?
- Why is it so special or funny?

### **Reading skills (20 mins)**

Read out loud the poem “The Gift” by Gerard Kelly in its original or adapted form, depending on your students.

Then the learners should read through the poem slowly for themselves (**M1**) and try to understand the gist of it. The questions on **M2** are designed to help.

Ask some of the learners if they want to present their answers and their poems.

### **Listening and watching skills (10 mins)**

Watch this video clip (3:31) about the wise men who went to find the new born king once or twice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhnqROCM>

The learners should find out which gifts baby Jesus got and write in the three words on **M2**.

### **Discussion (10 mins)**

Select some of the following discussion points depending on where you want to make the focus.

- Talk with your learners about the most precious thing they possess and what makes it precious? Is it what they are made from, rarity value, the love that went into making it or the love that someone feels for it?
- Show some broken presents or neglected ones. Ask if it matters if presents are treated in this way. Imagine you are a present that has been forgotten. They have left you in a box in your wardrobe. What can you hear, smell, taste, feel in your wardrobe? What does it feel like to be forgotten?
- Talk about people’s response to gifts: thanks, disappointment and neglect. Talk about gifts you cannot see like love, hope, peace etc.
- Talk about the statement in the Bible: “God loves a cheerful (happy) giver”. (2 Corinthians 9: 7) Have learners experienced that truth? Let them talk about it.

(Margaret Cooling: Christianity Topic book One, p.74-79)

## **M1 The Gift**

We were so glad to welcome him  
On Christmas day  
It was like having a new member of the family.  
He looked so tiny and helpless:  
It made you just want to pick him up  
And cuddle him.  
We made promises, of course;  
Said we'd make room for him in our home,  
Said we'd alter our routines  
To fit him in,  
Said we'd take a walk with him  
Each day.

But the novelty soon began  
To wear off.  
By New Year, we were mentioning  
Less often,  
Daily chores were less of a thrill  
More of a reluctant duty.  
By February he was unwanted  
By March we had abandoned him completely.

We should have read the warnings.  
We should have counted the cost.  
A God is for life  
Not just for Christmas.

Original by Gerard Kelly:  
Rebel without Applause

### Vocabulary:

glad = happy  
tiny = very small  
to cuddle = to hold close  
to make promises = to say what you are going to do  
to alter = to change  
novelty = something that is new  
to wear off = to go away slowly  
daily chores/duty = things you must do every day  
thrill = something that is exciting  
reluctant = not wanting to do something  
to abandon = to leave a person or place or thing for ever

## **The Present**

We were so happy to say hello to him  
On Christmas day.  
He is new in our family.  
He is so small and needs help:  
You want to take him into your arms  
And hold him close.  
We made promises, of course;  
We said that we would make room for him.. ..  
We said that we would change our life  
To have time for him,  
We said that we would take him for a walk  
Every day.

But all the newness began  
To disappear.  
By New Year, we were talking about him  
Less often,  
Walking the dog every day was not so much fun  
More something we needed to do.  
By February he was not wanted  
By March we didn't care about him anymore.

We should have checked out the warnings.  
We should have thought about it more carefully.  
Invite God into your home for the rest of life  
Not just at Christmas.

Adapted to make it easier by Heike Ross

**M2** Answer the following questions:

1. How was the reaction to this present?

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2. Describe the Christmas present in the poem? Underline all the adjectives!

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3. This Christmas present is also a challenge. Why?

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4. What is happening with the Christmas present as time goes by?

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5. This Christmas present is a \_\_\_\_\_. And it is compared to \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Is Christmas for you more about giving or getting?

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7. Write one or two poems or prayers as your reaction to the poem "The Gift":

C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T  
M  
A  
S

P  
R  
E  
S  
E  
N  
T

Christians believe that the baby Jesus was God's gift to all of us but Jesus also got gifts from the wise men. Watch the film and find out which ones!

\_\_\_\_\_ - a gift for a king.

\_\_\_\_\_ - a gift for a priest  
(someone who helps people to get to know God).

\_\_\_\_\_ - a gift for suffering showing that Jesus had a hard job to do.

