

Pastor John's Candle

A Christian story

Key ideas: Christingle, Christmas, Light

A long time ago, in the land of Moravia, lived a kind man. His name was John De Watterville and he was a Bishop. Bishop John spent his days telling everyone how much God loved them. He wanted to find a way to tell the children in his village about Jesus, and about God's promises.

John prayed and prayed, asking God to give him a good idea. In time he believed God answered his prayers and gave him a very good idea. Indeed it was such a good idea, that it is still used around the world. John was inspired to take an orange the next time he went to see the children in his village. He showed the children how round the orange was and full of goodness. He told the children that it was like the world that God had made – big and round and full of goodness.

Then John pressed four little sticks into the orange to be the four seasons of the year – spring, summer, autumn and winter – and onto the sticks he pushed some sweets and fruits and nuts. He explained to the children that these lovely things would remind them of all God's gifts to the world. Next John took a small candle and pushed it into the top of the orange. He told the children that God sent his son, Jesus, to be the Light of the World, to shine God's special light into all the places and hearts that were dark. Carefully he lit the candle to show the children that God's light makes a difference in our dark world.

Finally John told the children that Jesus had so much love that he died on the cross for everyone. John said that Jesus' love stretched right round the world to include absolutely everybody. The minister gently wrapped a red ribbon round the orange to show Jesus' love going round the world.

The children were thrilled by his story. They asked John to tell them the story again and again, and they watched as he put the orange, sweets, candle and ribbon together. The minister had made the first Christingle.

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