

Christianity Artefact Collection (CH-PACK)

This collection contains a variety of artefacts for teaching and learning about religious festivals, worship, art and faith. Using the artefacts can help bring religion to life and promote discussions.



Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item is used for and by whom?
- Which religious belief is it used by?
- Does anyone know what it is called? Learn how to pronounce the name.
- What does it represent?
- How might it be used?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

- **What do the objects tell us about the faith?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Christian Artefacts



Contents: -

1. Crucifix
2. Icons
3. Rosary Beads
4. Wooden Crosses
5. 3x Certificates
6. St. Damien's Cross
7. Chalice and Paten
8. KS2 Lesson Openers

Please note contents may vary.

1. Crucifix

An important symbol in Christianity representing Jesus on the cross. It is a visual reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.

Discuss its symbolism and learn about the story of Easter.

2. Icons

An icon is a painting or mosaic of Jesus, Mary, a saint or a church feast. Used as an aid to devotion (prayer and worship) usually in the Christian Orthodox church. The artefacts are ideal for exploring Christian art and culture.

Learn about key symbols in Christianity and match the Christian symbol names and descriptions to the correct pictures.

3. Rosary Beads

Rosary beads are used by some Christians, particularly Catholics, as an aid for prayer. They help keep track of the prayers and remind Catholics of what prayer to say. The beads focus the mind during prayer.

Thread beads or make own beads and decorate them and then use them in mindfulness activities.

4. Wooden Crosses

Reminder of the three wooden crosses at Calvary where Jesus was crucified. Some Christians also connect the three crosses with the concept of the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

Tell the story of Jesus. His love, sacrifice and hope for salvation.

5. Certificates

Learn about Christenings, baptism, weddings. Explore the meaning of symbols such as water (cleansing), white robes (new life), candles (light of God) and discuss the promises made and the meaning of the certificates.

Reenact Christenings, baptisms and weddings and create own certificates.

6. St. Damien's Cross

Also known as the San Damiano Cross or Cross of St Francis.

A symbol of renewal and rebuilding.

Read the story of Saint Francis and how he listened to God's call.

7. Chalice and Paten

Used during the Eucharist (Holy Communion) to hold the wine and bread, symbolising the blood and body of Christ.

Read and discuss the Last Supper and create a stained-glass window design or other piece of art to show this.

Useful Tips

- *Be sensitive using religious and cultural artefacts and understand any special requirements in handling them.*
- *Avoid creating stereotypes and understand that not all people from the same culture may use the artefact in the same way.*
- *Use the appropriate language to talk about the artefacts.*
- *Teach the children to handle and store the artefacts with respect and sensitivity.*